Nawaz

From Page 1

to enlarge the scope of economic inter-action", he said.

He said he was confident that the efforts will lead to a consolidation of their economic assets for the welfare of their peoples.

Mr. Nawaz said he believed that it was necessary for us to ensure that ECO became a vehicle for sustained economic development in the countries since it was only through mutual cooperation and assistance that they could achieve self-reliance and economic independence. "This is essential to the exercise of political sovereignty and to withstand external pressures. The path is difficult and we will have to make sacrifices. But I believe that with devotion, resilience and determination we can emerge as strong and self-reliant nations", he said.

Today's meeting, he said, was of course outside the framework of ECO because the issues to be addressed were essentially political. They would also discuss matters of regional and international concern.

Their talks, he said, would also pick up the thread of their discussions held last August in Tehran which took place in the wake of Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Since then, he said, there had been no improvement in the situation and it appeared that a conflict might be imminent unless Iraq, in compliance with the demands of the international community, withdrew un-conditionally and totally from Kuwait and the legitimate government of Kuwait was restored.

PEACEFUL SOLUTION

The Prime Minister said his country continued to hope that a peaceful solution to the problem could be found through the full implementation of the resolution of the Security Council. "We believe that the restoration of the sovereign, independent and non-aligned status of Kuwait will be a clear signal that the international community is determined to uphold the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-use of force in the conduct of inter-state relations", he said.

He was confident that the three Foreign Ministers would explore all avenues for defusing the crisis and would also give thought to the urgent need of establishing stable structure in the region in order to ensure that such adventures could not be undertaken by any country of the region against its smaller and vulnerable neighbours.

Pakistan, he said believed that the security of the Gulf must be the responsibility of the regional countries. "We also feel that the countries of the GCC and the three countries represented here could consult each other with a view to enhancing cooperation among themselves and to harmonise their position regarding the security of the area", he said.

The Prime Minister said that it was a matter of deep satisfaction that the three countries had adopted a principled position on the Gulf crisis. Pakistan, he said, was of the view that the Iraqi aggression and occupation of Kuwait was a transgression against the charters of the United Nations and Islamic Conference. It was also a violation of the principles of international law and norms of inter state conduct.

The Iraqi action, he said, made a mockery of the principles of non-use of force and the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force. If the international community were to condone the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait, all small and vulnerable states would be at the mercy of their more powerful neighbours, he said. Pakistan, he said, had therefore denounced the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and subscribed to all Security Council resolutions pertaining to the crisis.

WINDS OF CHANGE

While the winds of change are blowing all over the world and people were regaining their fundamental rights, he said, the countries in our region had unfortunately continued to suffer from problems which had resulted from a denial of the basic right of self-determination.

In Afghanistan, he said, despite the withdrawal of Soviet forces the conflict continued unabated and more than five million Afghans languished in exile in Pakistan and Iran. The past two years had demonstrated that the refugees will not return to their homes until a government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan was established and peace was restored to that country which has been ravaged by war.

He said the three countries had cooperated over the past decade in supporting the struggle of the people of Afghanistan against Soviet occupation and the imposition of a puppet regime there. "We must continue to cooperate to find a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan which is acceptable to the people of that country so that its independent, sovereign, Islamic and non-aligned character is fully restored", he said.

He said Pakistan had sent contingents of troops to Saudi Arabia, a country with which Pakistan had close fraternal ties. "Our contingent in Saudi Arabia is under Saudi command and is a symbol of our determination to oppose aggression and the use of force in the conduct of international relations", he said.

About the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir he said, they had been denied their right to self-determination for more than four decades. They were waging a struggle, he said, against Indian occupation and for the restitution of this right. During 1990 alone he said, more than 3000 Kashmiris had been killed, thousands more had been injured, or incarcerated. There were heart rending accounts of violations of human rights narrated by thousands of refugees who had fled the valley. The security forces, he said, were also burning down entire localities to deny Kashmiri men, women and children, a roof over their heads during the harsh winter of Kashmir.

Pakistan, he said, and the entire Islamic world, could not remain indifferent to this repression, arson and killings in Indian Occupied Kashmir. "In our view the only peaceful and just solution lies in holding of a fair and impartial plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with UN resolutions", he said. This, in our view, was also the spirit of the Simla Agreement, he said.

There, he said, was deep concern in the Islamic world over the wave of anti-Muslim riots in India instigated by extremist organisations which appear to be determined to spread communal hatred in India. He said their systematic campaign to destroy the historical Babri Mosque and to build a temple in its place had deeply injured Muslim feelings all over the world and had been instrumental in creating the inflamed situation. They have also announced plans to convert 3000 mosques in India into temples.

"We have time and again called upon the Indian government to ensure the protection of the life, property and the places of worship of the Muslims. It is an unfortunate fact that Muslim minorities are persecuted in many parts of the world, he said.

He said he believed that it was essential for the Islamic world to take a united stand against those countries which denied protection and fundamental rights to their Muslim minorities.

He said he was confident that their deliberations will enable them to recommend policy options which would save their region from the threat of war and destruction and introduce a stable, secure and peaceful climate in which all countries of the region, large and small, weak and powerful, could live together in harmony and pursue the social and economic advancement of their peoples in accordance with the principles of peaceful co-existence.—APP

FRONTIER POST JAN 04

Nawaz for political solution of Afghan issue

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has observed that a conflict in the Gulf will be disastrous for the entire region, particularly the Islamic world. Therefore, it was essential for the international community to find a peaceful solution in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

In his inaugural address to the trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan here on Thursday, Mian Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan believed the security of the Gulf must be the responsibility of the countries of the region. He was of the view that the countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and Iran, Turkey and Pakistan should consult one another for the purpose.

The prime minister also expressed his views on Afghanistan, Kashmir and anti-Muslim riots in India. He expressed the confidence that the deliberations in the trilateral meeting would enable the foreign ministers to recommend policy options which would save the region from war.

The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's stance on Gulf crisis saying that Iraq must withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait and allow restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait.

He said that if the international community were to condone the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait all vulnerable states would be at the mercy of their powerful neighbours.

He said that the contingent of troops was sent to Saudi Arabia for its defence adding that it was under Saudi command and it was a symbol of Pakistan's determination that it was opposed to aggression.

He said that there should be a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan which was acceptable to its people so that its independent, sovereign, Islamic and non-aligned character was fully restored.

The prime minister drew the attention of the foreign ministers towards the Kashmir issue and said the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir had been denied their right to self-determination for more than four decades and were now waging struggle against Indian occupation. He said the only peaceful and just solution lay in holding a fair and impartial plebiscite in Kashmir which was also in the spirit of the Simla agreement.

He said that during 1990 alone more than 3,000 Kashmiris were killed and thousands injured by the security forces while there were heart-rending accounts of violation of human rights narrated by thousands of refugees who have fled the valley. The security forces were also burning down entire localities to deny Kahsmiri men, women and children a roof over their heads during the harsh winter.

He said there was deep concern in the Islamic world over the wave of anti-Muslim riots in India instigated by an extremist organisation which appeared determined to spread communal hatred in India.

Nawaz Sharif said that India's systematic campaign to destroy the historical Babri Mosque and to build a temple in its place had deeply injured the Muslim feelings all over the world. The Indians, he said, had also announced plans to convert thousands of mosques into temples.

He expressed his delight over the reinvigoration of the Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO) and underlined the need to take steps to ensure that ECO became a vehicle for sustained economic development in its member countries.

Earlier, Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan said that it was a unique privilege to welcome Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to the meeting of the foreign ministers. He said that Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and its wide-ranging and grave repercussions were a cause of the most serious concern to the three countries. Developments in the Gulf, had therefore remained in the forefront of 'our preoccupations'.

According to APP Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif praised the brotherly ties between the three Muslim countries. He said no greater proof of their brotherly ties could be offered than the friendly and hospitable treatment given to more than 35,000 Pakistanis who travelled overland through Turkey and Iran on their way to Pakistan from Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Nawaz Sharif said that the desire of the respective governments and people to strengthen their relations in the economic sphere had led to the establishment of RCD in the sixties, which was revived in 1985 as the Economic Co-operation Organisation.

Prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati and Ahmet Kurteebe Alptemucin listening to national anthem prior to the opening of trilateral talks on Gulf.—F.P. photo by TANWEER SHAHZAD

An overview on developments in Afghanistan

By SAJJAD BANGASH

The recent past witnessed rather brisk political activities on the part of Najib's administration and stepped-up military activities on the part of Afghan mujahideen.

The Kabul ruler taking the political initiative unexpectedly dashed to Geneva and on the heel of it he made a one hour stopover in mushad (Iran), for what he called parleys with the Afghan opposition, while, initially. Teheran air port was planned for his landing by the Iranian authorities, according to *Jamhuri Islami*, an official news paper of the government of Iran.

Najib's visit to Geneva coincided with an exceptionally cohesive and well co-ordinated military operations by the mujahideen commenced on November 19 against the regime; another large scale attempt on the pattern of Jalalabad operations. The difference of this military offensive with the Jalalabad operation was in the following respects. The Jalalabad operation started inadvertently after the Samarkhel garrison surrendered to the mujahideen of NIFA under Gailani, the pro-West and pro-monarchy mujahideen leader. The other parties of the resistance dithered to take part in the operations in the first stages of the battle for Jalalabad. However, by and large the Jalalabad operation was the first conventional set-piece battle on the part of mujahideen which was used by the west as a pretext to change both their attitude and policies towards Afghanistan.

The Jalalabad operation conked out mainly due to the fact that the U.S. suddenly cut off her military supply to the mujahideen who had captured the Jalalabad airbase 6 km away from downtown of Jalalabad. The U.S. cut short its supply as she did not wish the mujahideen to win the war militarily. The U.S. only wanted the military operations to the extent to facilitate the way for such a political solution which ensured the interests of the her and not that of the Afghan people. The Americans believed if the mujahideen won the battle militarily, then they would not be able to manipulate the issue to its own interests.

In spite of the aforementioned facts there is no article written in the Western print media or commentary telecast by their electronic media in which the battle for one city (Jalalabad) is not counted as the defeat of the battle for a whole country with 30 provinces and more than two dozen big cities.

The stark difference of the November 19, operations with the Jalalabad battle is that no party or its commanders particularly those contributing in these operations claim to be conquering any town; although the whole operation even before it was launched was dubbed as the operation for taking Kabul by the Western newsmen based in Kabul. While the fact of the matter is that this operation is a precursor for the decisive operations on the capital Kabul.

The other marked variance of these operations with the Jalalabad operation is that the planning, supplies and logistics of these operations are done by ex-Afghan army officers no less in rank than brigadiers. In planning for these operations, Kabul province and the surrounding provinces of Paktia, Logar, Ghazni, Wardak-Maidan, Parwan and Laghman have been divided into 5 zones each commanded by local commanders assisted by the aforementioned ex-Afghan army officers.

The strategy of these operations is to tighten the noose around Kabul city and other major towns in the mentioned provinces by cutting off the supply routes of the regime, decapacitating the regime airbases to delink Afghanistan aerially with USSR in order to hamper Soviet economic and military airlifts the belleagured regime. The purpose of operations is to break the oft-taunted stalemate and to debunk the claims of the regime saying the mujahideen have been pushed back to the Pakistan borders and ultimately to pave the way for an all-out and decisive strike against Kabul.

These operations which are paying dividends militarily were planned by Hekmatyar, the chief of Hezb-i-Islami who is also the commander-in-chief of these operations some 6 months back. The idea was proposed to all other parties and commanders. The Jamiat-i-Islami under Prof. Rabbani and Harakat Inqilabi Islami under Maulavi Mohammadi gave their unequivocal support to these operations and said they would support any move against the regime at any time or season. The *Shura-e-Nazar*, supervisory council of the north under a well-known Jamiat commander Ahmad Shah Masood agreed with the plan but said it should be put off until next spring. However, the head of the *Shurai-Sartasari*, an American-established commanders *Shura* Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqani, rejected all out operations against the regime in the winter. Maulvi Khalis had conditioned his support to the fact that it should not be led by HIA of Hekmatyar, but must be led by AIG. Gailani and Mujaddadi, the two-pro American leaders who allegedly have understanding with the Kabul regime dismissed these operations on the plea it will kill many people in Kabul.

The leadership of HIA after strenous efforts only could elicit the support of JI Prof. Rabbani and Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi Harakati Islami of Ryatullah Mohsini and more than a dozen of commanders of different parties around Kabal and launched its first ever well co-ordinated attack.

These operations have taken the regime forces offguarded and have put them in a fix as this time they could not mobilise all its might in one direction as the operation is 5-pronged. As a result of these operations the Kabul-Logar, Paktia-Kabul, Kabul-Parwan, the Salang and Hairatan highways are off and on cut off, the Bagram airbase, the biggest in the country is paralysed and scores of regime security belts and posts were dismantled.

In spite of all these spectacular achievements the Zionist controlled media in the West which claims to be free has remained tightlipped. The success of these operations could be measured by the fact that the commanders' *Shura* under Maulvi Haqani who was deadly against the operations in the winter season gave a hurriedly called press conference and attributed all the gains of these operations to his *Shura* of the commanders. Haqqani is one of those commanders who is in the good books of the West. Previously, in all operations conducted by any party against Khost, Haqqani did not hesitate to claim those operations to his own credit.

The operation of November 19, has had far-reaching implications for jihad. The very operations sent shock waves in not only Kabul but, Washington, Moscow and Teheran. The reason why the U.S. and USSR be opposed to the military operations led by the so-called fundamentalists doesn't need explanation. However, it's very intriguing that the Iranian government be opposed to it. The Iranian media like that of the Western media tried to link these operations to the pro-American shura, on the one hand and on the other hand the Iranian authorities allowed Najib to land in Mashhad where he had one hour meeting with Ali Basharati, the deputy foreign minister and many reports also speak of Mujaddidi's meeting with Najib in Mashhad in the presence of Basharati and Mazarai, spokesman of Hezb-i-Wahdat a pro-Iran Shia party based in Teheran. There were also reports in the Western media that Gailani met Najib in Geneva in the presence of Prince Abdul Wali, the son-in-law of the deposed Afghan king, Zahir Shah.

The role of President Rafsanjani who claims to be the "leader" of the Islamic *Ummah* is highly dubious and devious. The recent voltface by the government of Rafsanjani has caused indignation in the the Mujahideen circles. For the last-years Iran has warmed up its reaction towards with Najib. The Iranian diplomats are attending all government functions in Kabul. Moreover, there are co-operations on the intelligence front between the two government. An Afghan pilot, from Takhar province who landed his plane last year in Iran in a bid to defect was interrogated by Khad inside Iran and extracted all sensitive informations from him about his friends in the airforce who also intended to defect.

FRONTIER POST JAN 05

Prospects for Pak-Afghan accord

NATION JAN 04

PAK-AFGHAN DISCORD: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE by Mehrunnisa Ali (Documents 1855-1979), Pakistan Study Centre, University of Karachi, 1990. Pages 439, price Rs 450 (US$25 and £15).

Ever since the creation of Pakistan, Pak-Afghan relations have generally remained strained. So, to understand the nature of confrontation, it is essential to delve into the past, place facts in their true historical perspective and then suggest remedial measures. Keeping these factors in mind, Ms Mehrunnisa Ali embarked on reproducing wide-ranging documents whose number is no less than 278. She has drawn these documents from British, Afghan, Indian and Pakistani sources. They encompass a period stretched over more than a century, i.e., 1855-1979. Precise and authentic maps have also been included in the book. These have enhanced manifold the quality and substance of this study.

Ms Ali's work not only provides an indepth analysis of the genesis of the problem, but also enables the readers to comprehend the different points of view of two sides — Afghanistan and Pakistan — regarding the issue. An added quality of the book lies in its presenting the viewpoints of contending parties. These relate to the events and developments that have bedevilled their mutual ties.

Ms Ali not only explains the documents but also analyses the causes of the rift. In the process, she refers to the future possibilities of cordial Pak-Afghan relations. Things as they are, the chances of goodwill are not bleak. However, these are not that promising either. The future prospects will primarily depend on the solution of the existing conflict.

Looking back, the book reveals that primarily the dispute evolves round the fate of the Durand Line. She says that in the past, Kabul always disputed the legitimacy of the Line, saying that it was not an international boundary and that the Pukhtoon areas historically belonged to Afghanistan. These have never formed an integral past of India and, thirdly, being a separate national entity, the Pukhtoons should be given the right of self-determination so as to carve out their political future. The Afghans claim that the 1947 referendum was unjust, since it excluded the option for independence.

Pakistan has categorically rejected these Afghan claims. It maintains that the Durand Line is an international frontier established in 1893 by a freely negotiated agreement. It has since been recognised by the world community. Incidentally, the boundaries once freely negotiated, laid down and accepted by both parties become facts of international law and as such cannot be subsequently denounced unilaterally.

As for the separate entity of the Pukhtoons, it might be argued that if linguistic and ethnic affinities are accepted as the criteria for the creation of an independent state, then the legitimacy of pluralistic and heterogeneous Afghanistan itself can be questioned. Concerning the Pukhtoon's right of self-determination, Pakistan asserts that it has been exercised by a majority, well over 50 per cent of the Pukhtoons, in the 1947 referendum. It has also been officially stated that if Kabul is genuinely interested in their rights, then it should grant the same to its own Pukhtoon citizens to ascertain their wishes whether they want to stay within Afghanistan or join with the relatively well-off majority Pukhtoons in Pakistan.

Kabul's stand lacks coherence and consistency and this is apparent from its policy modifications made from time to time to suit the requirements of party in power. Initially, it demanded for the return of the NWFP and the Pukhtoon areas to the "mother" country. Since the Pukhtoon areas, as contended by Kabul, were "separated by the military force of a colonial power from their fatherland, Afghanistan, they should be brought back to the fold. But lacking in strength, Kabul abandoned the same and advocated instead an independent "Pukhtoonistan". Similar anomaly can be seen with regard to its professed commitment to the right of self-determination. Originally, Kabul demanded this right for the Pukhtoons only, but now it seeks similar right for the Balochis to secure facilities for an access to the sea.

The "Pukhtoonistan" issue has become a corner stone of Afghan foreign policy since the inception of Pakistan. The tenactiy of the propaganda has not maintained a uniform level, but has varied in keeping with the changing internal and external situations.

The author mentioned three important facts underlying encouraging prospects for the future. First, despite its non-recognition of the border, Afghanistan had not resorted to force. Second, despite its differences with Pakistan, it did not side with India during the 1965 and 1971 wars, nor did it exploit Pakistan's difficulties. Thirdly, both had observed restraint in their reaction to one another's hostile acts. Except the incidents of raids, border violations, and the rupture of diplomatic ties, no major confrontation took place on the border.

Given the above facts, prospects for future relations do not appear bleak. The sooner the Afghan conflict is resolved, the better would be the prospects for a better perception of one another's point of view and for that matter for regional peace and security. Given the present stalemate and the continued blood-letting among the Afghans, the need of the hour is the pursuit of a rational and flexible approach on the part of all parties involved in the conflict — the two superpowers, Kabul and Islamabad, as well as the Afghan resistance groups inside the country, in Pakistan and Iran. The formation of a popular government representing all major Afghan groups seems to be the only feasible first step towards a peaceful solution of a decade-old conflict and till it is achieved, Pak-Afghan relations would remain tense.—COL. (RETD.) GHULAM SARWAR.

IJI govt apathetic to Kashmir, Afghanistan

From Our Correspondent

FAISALABAD—The Punjab PPP chief, Mr Fakhr Zaman and other party leaders have accused the IJI Government of being indifferent and apathetic to the problem of Kashmir, Afghanistan crisis and the Shariat Bill.

Addressing a pre-election meeting, here, they alleged, a tool of the same government is openly confessing his being drunkard with impunity.

Eliciting support for PPP candidate from, PP-59, Rana Sanaullah, Mr Fakhr Zaman charged that the present regime is pursuing its denationalisation policy in a calculated manner so as to sell large industrial units and banks to their favourites at a throw-away price.

The Government, he said, was oblivious of the Kashmir, Afghanistan, Kalabagh Dam and Shariat Bill issues while its Puppet Chief Minister in Sindh had the tensity to brag that he was a habitual alcoholic. He said the CM should have been sacked and tried under Hudood in the normal course.

Others who also spoke on the occasion, were Provincial PPP, General Secretary, Mumtaz Ahmad Kahilon, Provincial Secretary, (Finance), Tariq Khurshid and Divisional Secretary-General, Khurshid Ahmad, ex-Senator Mohammad Iqbal. People's Youth Wing chief, Khawar Jawed Rana besides PPP candidate Rana Sanaullah.

By-poll

As a sequel to the decision taken by Mayor, Ch. Sher Ali, MNA and Mian Zahid Sarfaraz, MNA to support Muslim League independent candidate in the bye-election in NA-62. Political situation has taken an interesting turn, and the table seem to have turned in favour of Ch. Munawar Ahmad. A large, though not large enough, public meeting in support of the IJI nominee, Raja Nadir Parvez, was addressed in Chak Jhumra by PML chief, Mohammad Khan Junejo and Provincial Chief Minister, Ghulam Hyder Wyne, on the first day. But on the very next day, a similar meeting was addressed by Mian Zahid Sarfaraz and Ch. Sher Ali, the situation turned somewhat ludicrous. Consequently, a large number of voters of the area who had declined to accept Raja Nadir Parvez as an imported candidate, openly turned hostile. A day after the not so successful meeting of PML chief, Mohammad Khan Junejo, PML Provincial Secretary General and Ghulam Hyder Wyne returned to Chak Jhumra and tried to induce the PML independent candidate, Ch. Munawar Ahmad to withdraw his candidature, but in vain. On the contrary, the Junejo League stalwart and ex-MNA, Ch. Mohammad Bashir Randhawa, and Gen (Retd) Mushtaq Ahmad Gill and other community leaders too have started canvassing in favour of the dissident Muslim Leaguer, Ch. Munawar.

Meanwhile, Raja Nadir Parvez has started a whirlwind tour of the willages which fall under the constituency of NA-62. He claimed during his corner meetings that capitalists would not be able to dupe the Muslim League voters. He assured the voters of his full support to their cause and said that January 10 would be the dooms day of those who intend fighting the by-election on the strength of their wealth

Moot

An Ahl-e-Hadeeth Seeratul Nabi Conference was held at Jamia Masjid Subhani Ahl-e-Hadeeth under the aegis of Ahl-e-Hadeeth Youth Force. It was inaugurated by Maulana Mohammad Abdullah of Gujranwala. Prof. Sajid Mir and Al-Haaj Mian Fazle-e-Haque, religious leaders and scholars of Islamic jurisprudence in their speeches highlighted the supremacy of Islamic way of life and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Murder

One person has been reportedly murdered in Faisalabad. Mohammad Rafique of Chak No. 260-RB, Dijkot has been allegedly murdered by Saleem Nadeem and two others following a dispute over land property.

Death sentence

Additional Sessions Judge, Ch. Ihsan Ahmad, has awarded death sentence and a fine of Rs 40,000 to one Shahadat of PS, Garhh. He was tried for killing one Liaquat two years ago and found guilty.

Life term

Additional Sessions Judge, Mehr Mohammad Altaf Hussain, has awarded life term and a fine of Rs 35,000 to Sarbuland Khan of Jhang Bazaar for having killed his sister-in-law, Shafqat Bano, wife of his brother over a domestic dispute.

Burglary

Unknown burglars broke open the shop of Haji Mohammad Hussain, a general merchant of Munshi Mohallah and decampred with Rs 60,000.

Anti-drug drive

In two anti-narcotics operations, Gulberg and Civil Lines Police have recovered 3 kilos of heroin. The raiding police party rounded up Ashraf, Rashid and Javed in three localities of Gulberg Colony and recovered 2 kilos of heroin from them.

Road mishaps

In three road accidents in different parts of Faisalabad, two persons have been reportedly killed and three injured.

As per details, Mohammad Ahmad, a shopkeeper of Chak No. 15-J, was run over by a speeding tractor. He died on the spot.

The second accident took place near Gulfishan Colony

NATION JAN 08

'Mujahids force Kabul troops to defensive position'

Prominent mujahid commander, Abdul Hameed, who is currently leading mujahideen force against the Kabul regime at a war front in Logar, has disclosed that the current attacks of mujahideen have forced the regime army to come down to defensive positions, adding major victories will be hugging mujahideen in near future.

He was interviewed by the Afghan News Agency ANA yesterday on his return for a short while to Peshawar from the war front, 25 kilometres south of Kabul city, where mujahideen captured a number of regime security posts, at least 20 tanks and liberated the Mohammad Agha district recently.

He said the main problem with the mujahideen was the lack of heavy weapons, while the Kabul regime forces were in possession of tanks, fighting machines (a developed form of tank), aircrafts, missiles and other lethal weapons. He said as mujahideen had made advancements towards the Afghan capital, the long range artillery of the regime gradually went useless against the mujahideen and added that mujahideen would capture a huge quantity of ammunitions during their current winter operations against the regime forces which would prove helpful in taking over Kabul. He said a huge fleet of tanks backing mujahideen forces had shattered the morale of Kabul administration.

When asked as to which was the main hurdle to entry in the Kabul city from the Logar front, Abdul Hameed replied that there were two major obstacles — the Bin Sherafgan division and the Saudagar Kandao — which were still in control of the regime forces, adding the mujahideen had planned to block the Gardez-Kabul highway after which the fate of the regime forces at these two places would have to be decided by the mujahideen. It may be mentioned here that the Bin Sherafgan, where a division of Kabul regime is stationed, is lying 10 kilometres south of the Kabul city while mujahideen are at a distance of 25 kilometres from the city.

Regarding the bombing missions of the regime airforce, the commander disclosed that in the past three months hardly a day passed, when no less than 10 or 12 aircrafts had not dropped bombs on the mujahideen positions. He said "since the bombs are dropped from a very high altitude, it caused very little damage to the mujahideen.

Commander Abdul Hameed said the Kabul regime in its central shoora meeting had decided to capture Tangi Waghjan from the mujahideen control, but in spite of three months operation they could not break the deadlock. After the failure of the regime, the army was highly demoralised and unable to the mujahideen.

He said the mujahideen were not concentrating on breaking the southern security ring of the Kabul alone, but launched onsets in Laghman, Kandahar, Parwan and a number of other provinces simultaneously with a view to frustrate Najib and his clique.

When asked as to how many regime personnels were captured by his group alone in the current operations, he said that they captured one brigadier, namely, Sharif, a deputy commander of the 8th division of Kabul army, Syed Hashim, and 27 personnels of Geelum Jem Malitia.

'Mujahids force Kabul troops to defensive position'

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When asked as to how many regime personnels were captured by his group alone in the current operations, he said that they captured one brigadier, namely, Sharif, a deputy commander of the 8th division of Kabul army, Syed Hashim, and 27 personnels of Geelum Jem Malitia.

FRONTIER POST JAN 05

RUSSIANS BOMBERS BOMB MUJAHIDEEN POSITIONS

JAN 0 5

In an air violence, a couple of the Russian was planed entered Afghan-airspace and dropped bombs over the Mujahideen positions in Dashdan, Surkhgunbad, Qaraighzal villages in Daulatabad district of Balkh province on January 1. As a consequence nomerious of the residential houses were destroyed and a large number of civilians were martyred and injuried, commander Enzir Gul told MIDIA.

The said commander have called upon peace loving countries, to press Russian government in order to end interference in Afghanistan. He also praised the good and friendly relations between the Mujahideen in his province Balkh. (MIDIA)

A TEAM OF SUPERVISORY COUNCIL GO TO SOUTH-WEST PROVINCES

A team of Supervisory Council for election comprising of 73 people have left for south-west provinces on Jan. 3 to supervise the on going election process in the region, a source of Election Commision told MIDIA.

According to the source, Dr. Faroq Azam, the chief of the Election Committee has given the necessary instructions to the team and also informed them about their responsibilies in this stage. It is worth mentioning that the election has already been started in some destricts and cities, controled by the Mujahideen.

(M I D I A)

JAN 0 6

MUJAHIDEEN CAPTURE TWO POSTS IN KABUL

According to the reports reaching MIDIA, the Mujahideen jointly attacked the Communist regime posts in Jugdulduck area of Sorobi distrtict of Kabul proivince, on Junuary 4. As a result, two posts were captured, two tank destroyed and several military vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition burnt

Meanwhile, the Mujahideen targeted Kabul regime's positions and installations along the Kabul-Sorobi highway with heavy machineguns, inflicting massive losses to the regime, destroying nine transformers of Naghlo's electricity station. The electricity current was cut off to Kabul then, the reports added.

The said joint attack was one part of the Mujahideen's pre-planed for cuting off the Kabul-Sorobi highway and a mounting attack on posts which were a kind of Kabul security belt. Now, fierce fight is continuing between the Mujahideen and the regime's forces in the said highway, the reports concluded. (MIDIA)

JAN 0 6

MUJAHIDEEN COMMANDER TALKS ON THE SOVIET INTERVENTION

"Two years have elapsed since the withdrawal of the Soviet invading troops from Afghanistan, but the Russian advisor are extensively controlling the production and extraction of crude and sue gas from the Shabarghan at the north of Afghanistan which in the meantime constitute the major resource of gas."It was said by Commander Sayed Rasoul, from the Aqcha District of the Jauzjan province, who arrived hwere in Peshawar for centain works relating to his front.

Answering a question that are Mujahideen are capable of destroying the pipeline which are extended from the above place to the Soviet Union? the commander said: "The communist regime deployed its key troops and militia forces along the huge pipeline which is extended to the USSR.The Mujahideen several times launched sudden attacks on the deployed posts and batteries and cut off the pipeline, which then had been repaired by the regime with the cooperation of the Russian advisors.

Another factor on the way of the Mujahideen attack is the unusual thickness of the piplines which have resistance with even the heavy machinegun shells.The Mujahideen do not possess at the moments developed weapon so as to pierce the calibar of the pipeline.

The commander also disclosed that Moscow sells almost free Afghan gas to some western nations and make hard currency over a war-stricken and small nation's natural wealth.

when the commander was asked about the presence of a number Russians in the ranks of Jauzjani militia, the commander conceded:"The Jauzjani militia is composed of the most cruel and anti society elements and are

See back page

severely hated by the local population.There is no doubt that the Soviet Union hid a number of its citizens in the ranks of these militia forces which are used as striking force by the communist regime against the Mujahideen throughout Afghanistan.Leader of these militia is a notorious communist and brutal butcher who formed an army division under this name in the Mazar-i-Sharif.Rashid Dostom is a very close friend and alter-ego of the communist dictartr of Kabul.His militiamen are given whatever they want and need.Despite all facilities the Jauzjani militia could not move an inch toward the Mujahideen strongholds and the areas under their control.

In response to another question, the commander went on to say:Due to the constant invasion of insects and pests, the peasants of many northern provinces of Afghanistan with numerous problems.The most far reaching effect of such invasion was imposed on the crops of weath, barley and other searels.Consequently the defects of crop productions, brought about an unprecedented price hike in the northern provinces.Unfortunately a substantial portion of the UN aid was used by communist militia and peasants of the areas which are still under the communist rule.

The UN and other international aid organisations have to render such aid through the Mujahideen.MIDIA

Mujahideen kill 68 Kabul troops

LONDON, Jan. 5: The Afghan Mujahideen killed 21 Kabul regime troops in three different clashes in the second largest city of Qandahar, while they destroyed an oil depot as well.

The oil depot located at Herat highway was destroyed on the 11th anniverary, the day of the Soviet aggression on Afghanistan.

The Agency Afghan Press says the Mujahideen conducted a rocket attack on the army camp and oil depots close to Chehl Zeena on the western part of Qandahar city on the morning of December 27. Nine Kabul troops were either burnt or killed while four other Kabul troops joined the Mujahideen the same day.

The same evening, Mujahideen evacuated a security post from the Kabul troops in Dand area, where the puppet government's troops fled away leaving behind eight dead bodies while two troops joined the Mujahideen during the clash.

On Dec. 28, the Mujahideen conducted an attack on a mobile Kabul force in Regi area located in the south-western suburbs of Qandahar where a tank was destroyed and four troops were killed. The Kabul troops left behind six injured, while three others surrendered to the Mujahideen.

Fierce clashes have been continuing between the Kabul troops and Mujahideen on the Salang highway in the surroundings of Baghlan and Tashgharghan cities in which 47 troops of the regime were killed or injured during three days while 15 Mujahids are reported to have been martyred.

The Kabul administration is using air force against the Mujahideen in the fighting. The Kabul troops were making efforts to dislodge the Mujahideen from Tangi Tashgharghan pass at the highway to ensure smooth land supplies from the Soviet Union to Kabul.

Clashes were continuing at the second branch of Salang highway as well. In the bombing 12 Mujahids were martyred at the Tashgharghan pass.—AAP.

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 06

Jehad to continue till fall of Najib: Hekmatyar

PESHAWAR, Jan. 5: The chief of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan, Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar has said the current attacks of Mujahideen have frustrated Najib, his lackeys and those parties which are afraid of Mujahideens' takeover in Afghanistan, reports Afghan News Agency (ANA).

In a statement issued from inside Afghanistan, he said the current convulsions of the Kabul administration on the diplomatic corps, the recent visits of Najib to Geneva, Ankara and Tehran were aimed at averting Mujahideens' pressure on the regime. These were the current operations that brought down the two superpowers close to an agreement for reinstaling Zahir Shah in Afghanistan. In view of Mujahideens' increasing pressure the mind of the Kabul ruler has been frustrated and he had time and again been claiming the establishment of contacts with Hezb-i-Islami.

Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar said that the Mujahideen operations vis-a-vis the rumours of a possible military coup has worried all the anti-Jehad elements and they had joined hands to conspire against the Mujahideen. They are now trying to replace Najib with an interim government headed by the former Afghan monarch, Zahir Shah. This so-called impartial government will hold elections in Afghanistan in which Najib and his party will be allowed participation. "But I should make it clear to all such parties that no solution of the Afghan problem could be practicable if it is not supported by the Mujahideen," he continued. He said the joint message of Najib and Zahir Shah is an ample proof of the fact that only Mujahideen could play a vital role and only that solution of the problem will bring peace which is supported by the Mujahideen.

He recollected the assertions of Zahir Shah that if Hezb-i-Islami accepts Zahir Shah for the interim period he will accede to all the demands of the party, further pledging that neither he himself nor a member of his family will take part in the future government. Hekmatyar went on to say that his reply to the message was that Najibullah should surrender unconditionally and avail the offer of general amnesty, the only option open for him and that Mujahideen will never give any other privilege to Najib least of Shariah decree against him. He insisted that Najib should hand over power to such an interim government the members of which have neither shared power during the communist rule since 1978 or the rule of Zahir Shah and it fully occupies the Afghan Mujahideen.

The Amir said Najib is responsible for the killing of 1.5 million Afghans. Jehad against him is still continuing and Najib in turn has been clinging to the chair, therefore, no question of negotiations with Najib arises. He alleged Najib through his continuous offers for negotiations wanted to deceive those army officers who have become tired of the prolonged war against their nation and thus averting the internal as well as external pressure on his regime.

Hekmatyar added the reply of Najib to his latest message was in the negative; therefore, he started the current operations against him which will be continued until final victory. He said now when a cohesive and organised attack against the Kabul regime has been launched it will be continued till the fall of Najib and therefore, no question of talks or otherwise arises with him.

Hekmatyar further said before the withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan Najib was very fearful of Mujahideen and established contacts with Hezb-i-Islami to safeguard his life.—PR

MUSLIM JAN 06

Superpowers creating obstacles in Afghanistan

KARACHI—Haji Ali Jan a representative of Hizbe-e-Islami Afghanistan in Karachi, has said coordination between Hizb-e-Islami and Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan will give tough time to Najib administration.

Addressing a Press conference at Press Club here Thursday he said both superpowers are creating obstacles in the establishment of Islamic government for their ulterior motives. He said inspite of supplying aid worth several million dollars every month Russian have failed to prove Najibs position. Now Russias have agreed with American plan to reinstate Zahir Shah," he added.

He told that during the last four months Mujahideen have destroyed one of the three defence lines around Kabul and captured about twenty military positions.—PPI.

NATION JAN 05

One of three Kabul defence lines destroyed

HYDERABAD, Jan. 6: Leader of Hezb-i-Islami Haji Ali Jan said that the Afghan Mujahideen have destroyed one of the three defence lines around Kabul and captured about 20 military positions over the months and soon they would launch a major attack on Kabul to capture it for good.

Addressing a Press conference here today with Dr. Mohammad Qasim Himaat, ex-commander Hezb-i-Islami Belgium, he said that both superpowers wanted to impose secular and multiparty government headed by former king Zahir Shah in Afghanistan against the will of Afghan nation that wanted the establishment of true Islamic government.

He warned them to beware of the defence of Afghan mujahids who had so far sacrified over 1.5 million of lives for freedom and self determination and said.

The only solution of Afghan dispute was establishment of Islmaic government not secular one against the wishes of Afghan nation.

He strongly lashed out at communism and said that the Afghan jehad inflicted first fatal strike on this unnatural system and inspired the suppressed nations of the world resultant there were freedom and democracy in Eastern Europe, rule of Solidarity in Poland, reunification of Germany, new reforms of Gorbachev and so on so forth.

He said that the day was not far off when the Afghan Mujahideen who had succeded in throwing away communism from motherland would emerge victorious in throwing out Najib away once for all and there would be complete hold of Islamic order in Afghanistan.—PPI

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 07

Khad's heart-rending atrocities over Afghans

Lawyers Association of Free Afghanistan (LAFA) in its *Human Rights Bulletin* has revealed hair-raising incidents of Khad's brutality against the innocent Afghans, reports Afghan News Agency.

The association has interviewed a number of Khad victims in the January 3 issue of the *Human Rights Bulletin*. An Afghan woman, namely, Nek Margha, aged 55, who recently emigrated to Pakistan, in her interview disclosed that the citizens of Kabul were facing very odd times at the hands of the Khad personnel and Geelum Jim and Esmat Muslim militia. The personnel of both Geelum Jim and Esmat Muslim militia are authorised by the Kabul regime to haul the inmates of the house at midnight, on the pretext of searching mujahideen inside the houses, and commit all sorts of crimes, from looting to rapes. The woman in her interview has recorded a number of incidents of the militia's excesses, saying whoever resisted the loot and arson of militiamen, they were taken away and killed later on.

Nek Margha disclosed that existence for a common citizen in Kabul was very drab. The prices of essential commodities are beyond the access of common man, as a loaf of bread costs 25 afghanis, a kilogram of beaf is bought for one thousand afghanis, an egg costs fifty afghanis, while a kilogram of sugar is sold for two thousand afghanis.

She explained that only the Communists and those working for the government were safe from the highest ever inflation. They are issued essential commodities on ration passes, while the citizens are denied ration cards. Only those people are blessed with ration passes who join the army.

She alleged that prices were intentionally kept high by the Kabul administration with a view to exploit the people by forcing them to fight against the mujahideen for monetary gains.

Nek Margha pointed out that the people of Kutu Sangi neighbourhood of Kabul city where she lived, were the worst suffering populace. The Afghan lady complained that the Kabul administration was turning a deaf ear to the complaints of the citizens against the Geelum Jim militia, without looking to the dignity and honour of the people as the administration was mostly relying on these forces.

Meanwhile, mujahideen sources have disclosed that the Geelum Jim militia personnel were not Afghans in origin. Recently mujahideen captured a number of Geelum Jim militiamen at the Logar war fronts and found that they could speak only Turkish language. They could neither speak Dari nor Pashto, the two most common languages of Afghanistan.

Mujahideen recovered almost naked photos of Indian and Russian women from the possession of these militiamen. Some mujahideen, who captured these militiamen, told ANA that the Geelum Jim militiamen presented a very poor and dirty look, a very foul smell came from their bodies and most of them did not know about the religion.

FRONTIER POST
JAN 08

FUTURE STRATEGY DISCUSSED

Afghan Mujahideen leaders meet Nawaz

From Nasir Malick

ISLAMABAD, Jan 7: Future strategy for the Afghan resistance war was discussed at a meeting held between the heads of the seven-party alliance of Afghan Mujahideen groups and Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif on Sunday night, a highly informed source told *Dawn*.

The dinner meeting at Prime Minister's House in the Federal Capital was also attended by some senior Army officers, including ISI Chief Gen Durrani, dealing with the Afghan Mujahideen groups, the source said.

Afghan resistance sources said the meeting reviewed the situation arising out of US aid cut-off to the resistance groups.

Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif, they said, however, assured the leaders that his government would continue to provide arms and economic assistance to the Mujahideen from its own resources.

The source said Mian Nawaz Sharif told the party heads that Pakistan had stood with the Afghan brothers during the last 10 years and would not ditch them when "victory is in sight". He, however, asked them to forge unity in their ranks and involve all the resistance groups in the Afghan interim Government. He asserted that the groups which have been left out from the interim government should be given representation, the source added.

Some of the heads, the sources said, demanded of the Prime Minister that his government should recognise the Afghan Interim Government without any further delay.

They said Prime Minister of the Afghan Interim Government Abdurrab Rasul Sayyaf did not attend the meeting "because of illness."

It was for the first time after the Soviet withdrawal that two main rivals Gulbadin Hikmatyar and Maulvi Mohammad Younus Khalis sat together in the meeting.

Others who attended the meeting were Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani of Jamiat-i-Islami; Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi of Harkat-i-Inqilab-i-Islami; Sibghatullah Mujaddadi, President of Afghan Interim Government and head of Jabah-i-Nijat-i-Milli party and Syed Ahmad Gilani of Mahaz-i-Milli-i-Islami.

MUSLIM JAN 06

Soviet planes bomb Mujahideen positions

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 5: A couple of Soviet warplanes entered Afghan air space and dropped bombs over the Mujahideen positions in Dashdan, Surkhgunbad and Qaraighzal villages in Daulatabad district of Balkh province on January 1. As a result many houses were destroyed and a large number of civilians were martyred and injured, commander Enzir Gul told Midia.

The commander has called upon peace-loving countries to press the Soviet government in order to end intereference in Afghanistan.

POLLS PANEL

A team of supervisory council for election comprising 173 people has left for south-west provinces to supervise the ongoing election process in the region, a source of election commission said.

Dr. Farooq Azam, chief of the election committee, gave necessary instructions to the team and informed them about their responsibilities.

Election has already started in some districts and cities, controlled by Mujahideen.—MIDIA

DAWN JAN 08

JAN 01

MAULAVI KHALIS:

MUJAHIDEEN SHOULD PLAY A DOMINENT ROLE IN ANY SETTLEMENT

KABUL REGIME MADE A DESPERATE ATTACK ON US IN NANGARHAR

Maulavi Mohammad Yunos Khalis, the Interior Minister of the IIGA who was on a working tour of the Nangarhar province, returned on Dec.31 to Peshawar and made an interview with a special correspondent of MIDIA in his residence, here in Shamshatu refugees camp.The exerpts are presented as hereunder:

Answering a question Maulavi Khalis said:The recent election program of the IIGA have to be confirmed for bringing a national consensus and provide grounds for settlement of the Afghan problem.The Hal Va Aqd elected representatives for Shura and Loya Jirgah(grand assembly of the Afghans), can play a dominant role in the future of Afghanistan, for they will be the most influential tribal chieftains, Ulema, field commanders, hailing from all walks of the people of Afghanistan."

When the Interior Minister of the IIGA was asked as to express his view on a recent program of the Mujahideen that all seven Mujahideen major parties have to send 25 representatives for a Shura, he stated:Although work for the second program is going on by the Mujahideen leaders, I prefere the Hal Va Aqd representatives for they encompass all section of the Afghan society.The second program is complyable in case that the first election program of the Mujahideen fails due to certain reason."

Maulavi Khalis said about the recent plans of the puppet Najib:"The Mujahideen will never sit together with the national traiters and foreign puppets and neither will they make a joint commission with the detested regime.The actual sides in the Afghan problem are the Russians and the Mujahideen.Najib should be considered as a guard of the Russians.The Mujahideen in any case should be the predominent force of the future of Afghanistan.

See back page

MUJAHIDEEN POUND COMMUNIST POSITIONS IN KABUL

JAN 0 8

MIDIA learnt from a reliable source of Mujahideen that the Mujahideen under commander Maulavi Sidiqullah pounded the communist positions in the Military Academy and the Fourth Armoured Squadron in Kabul, killing a total of 16 soldiers and officers and destroying two tanks, on Jan.5.

According to another report, the Mujahideen under commander Mullah Fazlurrahman launched an operation on the Bagram Airbase and communist installments on the newly-built road of Kabul Charikar.As many as 10 soldiers were killed and an ammo dump storage was eliminated, in the above operat n.MIDIA

JAN 0 8

MUJAHIDEEN KILL KhAD'S KEY MEN IN GHAZNI

The operational battalion of Khad of the Ghazni province was on Jan.6 and 7, pouned by the long-range artillery of the Mujahideen of the region, killing two high-ranking officers of KhAD and a number of militiamen, a Mujahideen source reported to MIDIA.

The KhAD's network of the Ghazni province suffered a severe setback after losing its key men, the report added.MIDIA

JAN 0 8

MUJAHIDEEN ATTACK COMMUNIST POSISIONS IN PAGHMAN

The Mujahideen of Jandullah Front in Paghman-20-odd Kilometer to the west of KAbul launched a surprise attack on the communist positions, killing a total of 20 soldiers and two officers and eliminating a number of the communist militia arms caches, on Jan.6,a Mujahideen reliable source reported.

According to the report, the Mujahideen used in the above attack mainly surface-to-surface rockets and BM-12 multiple-barrel rocket launchers.MIDIA

Mujahideen kill 51 communist soldiers

PESHAWAR, Jan. 8: The Mujahideen launched a surprise attack on the communists positions on Jan. 6, killing 20 soldiers and two officers and eliminating a number of the Communist Militia, reports PPI.

The Muhajideen used surace-to-surface rockets and BM-12 multiple barrel rocket launchers in the attack.

The Mujahideen has captured the strategic valley Bom in Murghab district of Badghis province.

As many as 15 servicemen of the regime were killed, four others injured and the rest fled away.

A huge quantity of arms and ammunition including 80 klashnikovs were seized by the Mujahideen, the report added.

nabi Jan, a group commander along with two Mujahids were martyred in the conflict, the report said.

Meanwhile, the Mujahideen under Commander Maulvi Sidiqullah shelled the Communist positions in the military academy and the fourth armoured squardon in Kabul, killing a total of 16 soldiers and officers and destroying two tanks on Jan. 5.

Meanwhile, the operational battalion of Khad of the Ghazni Province was on Jan. 6 and 7 attacked by the long-range artillery of the Mujahideen of the region, killing two high-ranking officers of Khad and a number of militiamen. The Khad's network of the Ghazni province suffered a severe setback after losing its key men.

Despite severe cold weather the Mujahideen attacks on the regime security posts is still continuing in far and wide of Afghanistan.

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 09

Soviet planes bomb Afghan villages

From Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD—In an air violence, two Russian war planes entered Afghan-Air Space and dropped bomb over the Mujahideen positions in Dashdan, Surkhgunbad, Qaraighzal villages in Daulatabad District of Balkh province on January 1. As a consequence several residential houses were destroyed and a large number of civilians were killed and injured, Commander Enzir Gul told media.

The commander have called upon peace loving countries to Press Russian government in order to end interference in Afghanistan. He also praised the good and friendly relations between the Mujahideen in his province Balkh.

NATION JAN 06

BOM VALLEY IN BADGHIS FELL TO MUJAHIDEEN

JAN 08

In an all out attack carried out by the Mujahideen, the starategic valley Bom in Murghab district of Badghis province has been captured by the Mujahideen on January 3. As many as 15 merceneries servicemen of the regime were killed, four others injuried and the rest fled away, a source of breg. General Ismail Khan has informed MIDIA . A huge quantity of arms and ammunitions including 80 kalashinkov rifles and two Zk-1 were siezed by the Mujahideen, the report added. Nabi Jan, a group commander along with two Mujahids were martyred in the conflict, the report said. (MIDIA)

KABUL'S REGIME SUFFERS FROM MASS DERSERTION

JAN 08

A Mujahideen reliable source reported to MIDIA that seven soldiers and three officers of the communist regime surrendered to Mujahideen in Kandahar from a security outpost and brought with them one wireless set, three Klashinkov rifles, one heavy machinegun and a number of pistols, on Jan.8.The Mujahideen of the province anticipated further mass defections in the near future.MIDIA

Soviet Union asked to stop supporting Najib regime

HYDERABAD, Jan. 9: A leader of Hezb-e-Islami, Haji Ali Jan has warned Soviet Union that it should immediately give-up support to Najib's government in Afghanistan if it wanted to save its union from further disintegration.

He was addressing a news conference here Sunday flanked by ex-commander Hezb-e-Islami, Belgium, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Himmat. He said that he was just back after visiting Afghanistan to know the latest development in the area and added "as you are well aware that the Afghan nation has been fighting two-pronged battle to throwout Russian forces and oust puppet Najib's govt," by the the grace of Allah-Almighty the Afghan Mujahideen have come out with flying colours in expelling Russian forces and are now grappling with Najib administration.

Assailing power blocs he said that they were creating obstacles in the way of establishment of an Aslamic government, to gain their ulterior motives at the cost of lives of innocent Afghans. America and Russia wanted to impose the deposed Afghan ruler Zahir Shah on the valiant nation which had sacrificed 1.5 million lives for freedom and self-determination. We cannot bow before anyone except God Almighty, he declared.

He further said that after humiliating defeat at the hands of Afghan Mujahideen, the Soviet Union had got closer to USA to achieve their collective ends and purpose. A secular coalition and multi-party government in Afghanistan, presenting this as the only solution of Afghan dispute. The worthwhile and everlasting solution to Afghan imbroglio lay in affording the right of self-determination to the Afghan Nation that has been sanguinely yearning for establishing an Islamic government in their country for which they had offered matchless sacrifices, he stressed.

Elucidating the Jihad position, the Afghan Mujahiden are waging for freedom, Ali Jan said that the Mujahideen had mounted their armed struggle over the past months and destroyed one of the three defence lines around Kabul and captured about 20 military positions. They had now embarked on the the task of launching a decisive attack on Kabul to hold it once for all.

From S. M. WASEEM

Digging at communism, he said that it had lost its charm and worth and Afghan Jehad gave the first fatal blow to this unnatural system. Afghan Jehad had inspired the oppressd and suppressed nations across the world resulting in ripples of freedom and democracy in Eastern Europe, victory of solidarity in Poland, reunification of Germany, and new reforms of Gorbachev and so on.

MUSLIM JAN 10

Four children die in Afghan blast

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 9: Three boys and a girl were killed when a toy bomb which they found on the bank of Lalpuri river in Afghanistan went off.

The Mujahideen of the region reported that the toy of bomb was one of the thousands of similar devices which had been shattered throughout the province by the Kabul regime, recently.

Another similar incident which took place in the Rodat District testifies the above reality.

Three boys were killed and one received severe injuries as one of the blasted in the district early this week.

Meanwhile, the Mujahideen under commander Musa attacked the security outposts and positions of the Communist regime in Maidan—capital of Wardak Province, occupying five outposts and killing as many as 50 servicemen on Jan. 8, a mujahideen's source reported.

The report added that 28 klashnikovs one Pika sub-machinegun, two rocket-launchers and a large quantity of ammunition were among the seizure of the mujahideen.

A source also reported that the Mujahideen launched an attack on the security coldron of Khost subdivision of Paktia Province, killing a total of 28 militiamen and capturing one heavy machinegun, a rocket-launcher, 20 klashnikovs. According to this report, one Mujahid sustained injury.

Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddadi, president of the Islamic Interim Government of Afghanistan received the ambassadors of the United States and Saudi Arabia in Pakistan, and discussed a number of important national and international issues relating to Afghanistan and the IIGA on Jan. 8, here in the presidential office, in Peshawar, the information department of the presidential office reported.

Present at the talks were some cabinet members of the IIGA as well as envoys of the United Nations and the Saudi Red Crescent Society.

Situation of famine and drought in the northern provinces of Afghanistan was also discussed in the meeting. A three-member committee was set up to obtain relief assistance and dispatch it to the famine-stricken areas of the country. Engineer Abdul Rahim, president of the Refa organisation and Dr. Azizullah Ludin, adviser to the president of the IIGA were inducted in the newly-set up committee which is headed by the president of the IIGA.—MIDIA

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 10

Hekmatyar's daughter wedlocked

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — The wedding ceremony of the daughter of Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar, chief of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan in Islamabad at his residence on Tuesday night was seen by the audience as an example of austerity and simplicity.

His daughter was engaged to the brother of Shaheed Engineer Saifuddin, one of the founding members of the Islamic movement in Afghanistan and son of a leading mujahid Nasruddin Nusratyar who graduated from Malaysian university recently. A large number of mujahideen elders attended the ceremony.

A single cup of tea with simple biscuits were served to all the participants. The Sunnah of the holy prophet Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) was revived when Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar fixed an amount of rupees nine hundred as dower amount of the bride against the offer of rupees one lakh by the father of the bridegroom.

PAKISTAN TIMES

JAN 10

Mujahideen assured of full support

From Our Correspondent

HYDERABAD, Jan 7: The representative of Hizb-i-Islami, Afghanistan, in Karachi, Haji Ali Jan, said here on Sunday that the Afghan Mujahideen were continuing their struggle to topple the Najeeb regime and enjoyed "full support" of the Afghan people.

Addressing a news conference at the office of Jamat-i-Islami, here, Mr Ali Jan, who returned from Afghanistan after a two-month stay there, he warned that former ruler Zahir Shah had no role to play in Afghanistan. "We have not lost 1.5 million lives for Zahir Shah," he said, and added that "nothing short of an Islamic State will be acceptable to the Afghan people and the Mujahideen."

DIRECTIVE: The Hyderabad Mayor, Mr Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, directed the Food Inspectors to launch a "vigorous" campaign against adulteration and keep a vigilant eye on crushed spices and tea.

Presiding over a meeting of Food Inspectors, here on Sunday, he said complaints against food adulteration were pouring in, and it was the "legal and moral duty" of Food Inspectors to take strict action against profiteers who were endangering human lives.

PROTEST: Circle organiser of MQM, Tando Jam, Mr Mohammad Ibrahim, has protested against the proposal to elevate the status of Hala to a district.

He said if a new district were to be created, then Tando Allahyar should given preference, which was much more important than Hala in every respect.

OFFICE-BEARERS: Haji Asmatullah Khan Mahsood was elected President of the Awami National Party Hyderabad District, for the year 1991 at the annual elections of the party held here, on Saturday.

Messrs Shahid Ali, Afzal Khan Hassan Zai, Irshad Ali Khattak, Badshah Gul Tawani, Nawab Ali Ghamgeen, Nisar Shah, Barkhurdar and Rambeel Khan were respectively elected Senior Vice-President, General Secretary, Deputy Secretary-General, Joint Secretary, Information Secretary, Treasurer and Salar.

ARRESTED: The Anti-Corruption Police, Hyderabad, caught red-handed Shaukat Ali, an Inspector of the Fisheries Department, while accepting Rs 2000 from a fisheries contractor, Imdad Ali Mirbahar, here, on Sunday.

DAWN JAN 08

Body for aid distribution in Afghanistan

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR, Jan. 9: An Afghan committee has been established to funnel the world humanitarian assistance for the Afghan Mujahideen inside Afghanistan.

The decision was taken at a meeting held at the Presidency of Afghan Interim Government here which was chaired by the AIG President, Professor Sebghatullah Mujaddedi, and attended among others by U.S. Ambassador Robert B. Oakley, Saudi Ambassador Yousaf Al-Motabaqani, representatives of the Saudi Red Crescent, United Nations in Peshawar, Directors of the NGOs in Peshawar and AIG Ministers.

The Afghan Committee for distributing aid inside Afghanistan especially in the famine-stricken areas in northern Afghanistan will be headed by the AIG President. The members of this committee will be representatives of AIG President, Prime Minister, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Reconstruction, Reconstruction Administrator for Afghanistan, Benon Sevan's representative and representatives of the American and Saudi embassies, the Saudi Red Crescent and the Commanders Shura.

Prof Mujaddedi will be the Acting President of the Committee while Engineer Abdur Rahim will be its Secretary General. The distribution of world aid and its transportation inside Afghanistan will be the responsibility of this committee which will open its offices in Peshawar and Quetta simultaneously.

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) which is the main coordinating body for humanitarian aid to different NGOs will, however, continue its operations. The NGOs will also continue their activities as usual.

Observers are of the opinion that the establishment of this committee is aimed at revitalising President Sebghatullah Mujaddedi who seems to have lost much of his command over the affairs of his government. The Afghan Interim Government having run out of its prescribed tenure since last year, the six component parties of the AIG chalked out a plan for interim elections to induct a new Loya Jirga and bring forth a new non-controversial interim body. The appointment of Prof. Mujaddedi as head of the aid distribution committee by the United States has come as a surprise to many.

MUSLIM JAN 10

MUJAHIDEEN INTERCEPT SUPPLY CONSIGNMENT

JAN 10

MIDIA learnt from a Mujahideen's reliable source that the Mujahideen under commander Malang launched a surprise attack on a military consignment of the Kabul regime which was head on from Hairatan Port to Kabul at the Tangi Tashqirghan, on Jan. 7.As many as 21 lorries loaded with ammunition and two tanks were destroyed and 14 militiamen killed.

The report added at the communist warplanes resorted to reprisal bombardments of the regions and inflicted heavy damages to the civilians.

According to a separate report, the Mujahideen under commander Maulavi Abdul Hai ., the security outposts in Baghlan, killing five army servicemen and siezing eight Klashinkov rifles,one Gerinov sub-machinegun and a quantity of ammunition, on Jan. 8.

According to the report, one Mujahid fell martyred and two received injuries.

Another report indicated that the Mujahideen's long-range rockets pounded Charmgari battalion in the Kunduz province, last week killing five militiamen and injuring eight.MIDIA

U.S., USSR differences on Afghan issue exist: Tomsen

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — The U.S. envoy for the Afghan resistance movement, Peter Tomsen, has said that the Afghan mujahideen have supported the liberation of Kuwait and have expressed desire to send their contingent to join the American and other 27 countries multi-national force in Saudi Arabia.

Talking to the VOA's representative on Tuesday Peter Tomsen spoke on almost all aspects of the Afghan issue. He said the United States and the Soviet Union did agree on the independence of Afghanistan and right to self-determination of Afghans. But difference between them, despite on year-long talks still existed on the question of the nature of the system and mode of elections in Afghanistan till a real independent and sovereign government came to power in that country.

According to the American envoy, the Soviet Union wanted that Najibullah to remain a powerful president. "Everyone is aware about the Afghan affairs that sooner or later Najib would no more be ruler of Afghanistan and a real Afghan government would replace him. When asked whether after Najibullah, the split mujahideen would be able to take over power, Peter Tomsen said series of conciliation and understanding was continuing between the mujahideen commanders and political leaders and he believed that after Najibullah, any single person would not assume power rather a collective leadership would take over.

When asked whether the 50 lakh Afghan refugees would return home, the U.S. envoy said the Afghan refugees were returning home on a limited scale. He said 80 per cent Afghanistan had been liberated and the movement was still continuing in some areas.

"But the country has been ravaged by the war, 65 per cent population has been rendered homeless by migration in and outside the country. Hundreds of squares of miles have been bombed. How in such a ravaged country the refugees could return? Most of the Afghans avoid to return. Nearly 40,000 of refugees returned home last year," he said.

Peter Tomsen said people who had crossed border into some parts of Kunar and Kandahar had rebuilt their houses and started cultivation again, but this had happened on a very limited scale.

To a question about the attitude of Pakistanis towards the refugees now, Tomsen said Pakistanis had wholeheartedly hosted the Afghan refugees during and even after the Soviet domination.

The U.S. envoy for the Afghan resistance was posed a question that a change in the Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan was witnesed following coming into power of Benazir Bhutto and if any change in the policy has taken place since the new government came to power? He replied that he had seen no change in Pakistan's attitude. "We are holding regular consultations with the Pakistanis and Saudis and they have been supporting Afghan resistance for more than 10 years".

FRONTIER POST JAN 10

PETER TOMSEN REVEALS

Mujahideen support Kuwait's liberation

ISLAMABAD, Jan 10: The US envoy for the Afghan Resistance Movement, Mr Peter Tomsen has said that the Afghan Mujahideen have supported the liberation of Kuwait and has expressed desire to send their one contingent to join the American and other 27 countries multinational force in Saudi Arabia. Talking to the VOA's representative on Tuesday Peter Tomsen spoke on almost all aspects of the Afghan issue. He said the United States and the Soviet Union did agree on the independence of Afghan and right to self-determination of the Afghans. But difference between them, despite one year long talks still existed on the question of the nature of the system and mode of elections in Afghanistan till a real independent and sovereign government comes to power in that country.

According to the American envoy the Soviet Union wants that Najibullah remain a powerful president. Everyone is aware about the Afghan affairs that sooner or later Najib would no more be ruler of Afghanistan and a real Afghan Government would replace him. When asked whether after Najibullah, the split in Mujahideen would be able to take over power. Peter Tomsen said series of conciliation and understanding is continuing between the Mujahideen commanders and political leaders and he believed that after Najibullah, any single person would not assume power. Rather a collective leadership would take over. When asked whether the fifty lakh Afghan refugees would return home. The US envoy said the Afghan refugees were returning home on a limited scale. He said 80 per cent Afghanistan had been liberated and the movement was still continuing in some areas. "But the country has been ravaged by the war, sixty-five per cent population has been rendered homeless by migration in and outside the country. Hundreds of squares of miles have been bombed. How in such a ravaged country refugees could return? Most of the Afghans avoid to return. Nearly forty thousand of refugees returned home last year.

"He added Peter Tomsen said people who had crossed border into some parts of Kunar and Kandahar had rebuilt their houses and started cultivation again. But this has happened on a very limited scale. To a question about the attitude of Pakistan towards the refugees now, Mr Tomsen said Pakistanis had wholeheartedly hosted the Afghan refugees during and even after the Soviet domination.

We often hear about the incidents that the boats loaded with refugees were pushed away in the sea even after reaching to the coast. This has not happened in Pakistan, he stressed. The US envoy for the Afghan Resistance was posed question at a change in the Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan was witnessed following coming into power of Benazir Bhutto and if any change in the policy has taken place since the new Government came to power, he replied that he had seen no change Pakistan's attitude. We are holding regular in consultations with the Pakistanis and Saudis and they have been supporting Afghan resistance for more than ten years."—PPI.

DAWN JAN 11

Afghan DPs hold big rally

From Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR, Jan 10: A big protest rally of Afghan refugees affiliated to seven Afghan Mujahideen parties in the outskirts of Peshawar demanded the immediate withdrawal of what they called non-Muslim troops from the Holy Land and Gulf region, and an end to external interference in the affairs of Afghanistan.

The rally was addressed by the second-line leadership of the seven parties including former Hezbe Islami Deputy Chief Eng. Obaidullah, Eng. Ahmad Shah, Deputy Chief of Ittehade Islami (Sayyaf) Jamiate Islami's Ustad Mir Hamza and Haji Din Mohammad of Hezbe (Khalis).

The speakers opposed the proposal for a neutral government in Afghanistan and installation of deposed Kabul monarch Zahir Shah as its head.

The Mujahideen leaders expressed their displeasure over the Iraq annexation of Kuwait but at the same time they opposed presence of non-Muslim troops in the Gulf region.

They called for the solution of Muslim Ummah's problems through their own mutual understanding instead of alien forces to interrupt peace in the region and kill Muslims.

They called for immediate withdrawal of non-Muslim troops which they felt a conspiracy against Muslims.

DAWN JAN 11

4 Afghan kids killed in toy-bomb blast

PESHAWAR—Three boys and a girl were killed when a toy-bomb blasted which they found on the bank of Lalpuri River in Afghanistan, reports Midia.

The Mujahideen of the region reported that the toy bomb was one of the thousands of similar devices which had been scattered throughout the province by the Kabul regime, recently.—PPI.

NATION JAN 11

Afghan leaders for fair polls in Kabul

Free, fair and impartial elections under a caretaker government headed by ex-King Zahir Shah is the only solution of Afghanistan problem.

This was resolved by a public meeting at Munda (Shabqadar) Refugee Camp, which was attended by a large number of Afghan refugees, Mujahideen and scholars, and was addressed by Shahzad Masud, Mohammad Akbar,

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 14

40 killed in Kabul rocket fire

LONDON, Jan 10: In a rocket attack from Qandahar cantonment conducted by the Kabul regime forces 40 Afghan people were martyred and several others were injured.

Last month the Kabul administration had engineered a conspiracy against the Mujahideen after they had mounted pressure on Qandahar.

With the explosion of rockets a havoc was spread in the populated areas of Herat Bazar, Arag Bazar and Jada Qandahar, where heavy loss of life occurred and dozens of houses were razed to the ground.

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 11

Mujahideen demand return of U.S. troops from S. Arabia

A large number of founding members of the Islamic movement in Afghanistan affiliated with the seven big political parties of the mujahideen held a meeting at Orphanage in Chamkani on Thursday morning demanding the immediate withdrawal of non-Muslim troops from the Gulf region and stopping of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, reports Afghan News Agency.

Prominent among those who addressed the protest rally included former naib amir of Hezb-i-Islami (Hekmatyar) Engineer Obaidullah, naib amir of Ittehad-i-Islami (Sayyaf) Engineer Ahmad Shah, naib amir of Jamiat-i-Islami (Rabbani) Ustad Mir Hamza and its secretary-general Syed Noorullah Emad and naib amir of Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis), Haji Din Mohammad.

A communique was also issued on this occasion in which they demanded the establishment of a true Islamic government in Afghanistan and the induction of a joint Islamic shoora of the mujahideen to unite them on a single platform.

Speakers on the occasion outrightly rejected the holding of elections in Afghanistan under the supervision of United Nations and condemned the idea of impartial government. They made it clear that mujahideen would never accept coalition with the communists and continue their struggle until the establishment of a purely Islamic government. The speakers vowed that they would oppose any move for re-installing Ex-king Mohammad Zahir Shah in Afghanistan and declared that only mujahideen would form the future Islamic government. The speakers supported the joint communique of the ulema and commanders shoora, recently issued. They appreciated the assistance and cooperation of the neighbourly Muslim countries but at the same time demanded non-interference in the affairs of Afghans.

The speakers considered the assistance of the Islamic countries with the Soviet Union as against the spirit of Islamic movement. They demanded that instead of assisting the communists the Islamic countries should support the mujahideen to enable them to establish a purely Islamic government and restore peace in the wartorn country.

They expressed solidarity with the mujahideen of Kashmir, Palestine and Philippines and condemned the terror of Hindus unleashed over the Muslims in India. They termed the movement of Hindu fanatics against the Babri Mosque as a challenge for the whole Muslim world and demanded a befitting reaction by the Muslims.

The speakers condemned the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait but showed grave concern over the presence of non-Muslim forces on the holy land. They demanded immediate withdrawal of all non-Muslim forces from Gulf and expressed the apprehension that the presence of American troops in Gulf was a conspiracy against the Muslims.

FRONTIER POST

JAN 11

Mujahideen may join forces in Gulf

ISLAMABAD—US envoy for the Afghan resistance movement Peter Tomsen has said that the Afghan Mujahideen have supported the liberation of Kuwait and has expressed desire to send their one contingent to join the American and other 27 countries multi national force in Saudi Arabia.

Talking to the VOA's representative on Tuesday, Peter Tomsen spoke on almost all aspects of the Afghan issue. He said the United States and the Soviet Union did agree on the independence of Afghanistan and right to self-determination of the Afghans. But difference between them, despite one-year long talks still existed on the question of the nature of the system and mode of elections in Afghanistan. Till a real independent and sovereign government comes to power in that country.

According to the American envoy the Soviet Union wants that Najibullah remains a powerful President. Everyone is aware about the Afghan affairs that sooner or later Najib would no more be ruler of Afghanistan and a real Afghan Government would replace him.

When asked whether after Najibullah, the split Mujahideen would be able to take over power, Peter Tomsen said series of conciliation and understanding is continuing between the Mujahideen commanders and political leaders and he believed that after Najibullah, any single person would not assume power rather a collective leadership would take over.

Peter Tomsen said people who had crossed border into some parts of Kunar and Kandahar had rebuilt their houses and started cultivation again. But this has happened on a very limited scale.

To a question about the attitude of Pakistanis towards the refugees now, Tomsen said Pakistanis had wholeheartedly hosted the Afghan refugees during and even after the Soviet domination.

'We often hear about the incidents that the boats loaded with refugees were pushed away in the sea even after reaching to the coast. This has not happened in Pakistan', he stressed.

The US envoy was posed question that a change in the Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan was witnessed following coming into power of Benazir Bhutto and if any change in the policy has taken place since the new government came to power he replied that he had seen no change in Pakistan's attitude. We are holding regular consultations with the Pakistanis and Sauids and they have been supporting Afghan resistance for more than 10 years. —PPI.

NATION JAN 11

AIG elections plan opposed

F.P. Report

A number of Afghan ulema, mushaikh, mujahideen commanders and refugees in a meeting at Munda refugee camp on Friday have unanimously opposed the election plan of Aghan interim government.

In a press statement, the meeting described the AIG polls plan as an obstruction in the solution proposed by the United Nations under the leadership of former Afghan monarch Zahid Shah. The meeting observed that the fair and impratial elections in Afghanistan could be held only under an interim government headed by the former monarch and expressed confidence in the leadership of the exiled king.

Criticising the AIG elections plan, the meeting also observed that it aimed at to divert the international public opinion from the U.N. proposed solution of the Afghan crisis.

The meeting urged upon all the sections of the Afghans for forging unity among their ranks for the outset cause of Afghan jihad—the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

FRONTIER POST

JAN 12

No decision as yet to send Mujahideen to Saudi Arabia

PESHAWAR, Jan. 12: Amir of Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis), Haji Deen Mohammad has said that the question of sending Mujahideen contingents to Saudi Arabia to join the multi-national forces these has not come up for discussion at the AIG cabinet.

In an interview with Afghan news agency here, Friday, he disclosed that previously they had received a letter from the AIG president for sending Mujahideen contingents to Saudi Arabia and their party in compliance with the same, had prepared Mujahideen but the matter did not come up for discussion at the AIG cabinet he added.

When asked as to whether the delay in sending Mujahideen to Saudi Arabia was due to the differences between Mujahideen parties with special reference to Professor Abdur Rasool Sayyaf who had earlier declared that Mujahideen would not go under the command of U.S. forces, he said that the matter never came up for discussion at the AIG level.

In response to another question Haji Deen Mohammad said that their party did not receive any military aid from any quarter since long.

Commenting on the current electioneering of the AIG he said that if the mode of the process was based on selection amongst the Ulema and commanders for the Islamic Shoora, their party will support it. He said that they have full faith in the supervisory teams of the AIG and have asked their Mujahideen inside Afghanistan to take full part in the process to bring forth an Islamic Shoora, provided their conditions are fully met.

Replying to yet another question regarding increasing number of Shoora like the ulema and Commanders' Shoora viz-a-viz the AIG etc, he said that this was an undemocratic process and every Afghan had the right to play his role in a more effective manner and organise their own platforms. It will generate support for the current leadership as they have already proved their mettle he commented.

In response to a question as to whether they had shifted their offices inside Afghanistan, the HIA leader said that they have decided to shift inside Afghanistan in the near future. So far all the inter-communication systems and command units of the Mujahideen have been shifted inside Afghanistan, he claimed.

Haji Deen Mohammad urged the need for increasing confidence amongst the Mujahideen parties and eschewing the internal differences amongst various organisations. He said it was time for reorganisation of the Mujahideen adding that leaders of the political parties should focus more attention on Mujahideen. He said that their party will undertake a programme for imparting not only military training to Mujahideen inside Afghanistan but also arrange lectures for their "Tazkia nafs", (spiritual training). Haji Deen Mohammad stressed the need for a joint military strategy for all the Mujahideen adding that it will take mujahideen more close to their goals.

He rejected any imposed solution of the Afghan problem by saying that neither USA nor USSR has the right to decide about the fate of the Afghans. It is for the Afghans alone to determine about their future, he maintained.—ANA.

MUSLIM JAN 13

UNHCR helping Afghan refugees to cope with winter

QUETTA (APP)—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has taken necessary measures to help the Afghan refugees to cope with the rigrous of the current harsh weather in the province.

As part of these relief measures, the UNHCR has reactivated its 60 basic health units to provide basic medical aid to the one million Afghan refugees, based in a number of refugees camps in different areas of the province.

It was also providing an additional number of blankets to the refugees on their request.

However, some Afghan refugees, who arrived here, from the Saranan and Surkhab refugees camps, said that the refugees of these two camps were faced with fuel and food shortage.

The current unusual harsh weather, which swept through a large part of the northern and central Balochistan, has claimed about 34 lives so far, including 17 Afghan refugees, mostly minor children.

FRONTIER POST

JAN 12

Mujahideen demand US troops withdrawal

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR—Several Peshawar-based Afghan refugees and Mujahideen groups through a public meeting near Peshawar on Thursday, morning demanded early withdrawal of non-Muslim troops from Saudi Arabia and stoppage of interference in affairs of Afghanistan.

The Afghan refugees public meeting addressed by a number of leaders including Engineer Ubaidullah, ex-deputy chief of Hizbe Islami (Hikmatyar) Engineer Ahmad Shah, deputy chief of Ittehad Islami, Vice-President of Jamiat Islami Ustad Mir Hamza and General Secretary Syed Noor Ullah Emad and Haji Din Mohammad deputy chief of Hizbe Islami (Khalis).

The Afghan leaders while expressing concern over deployment of non-Muslim troops in Gulf region also deplored the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and asked President Saddam Hussein for early withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

They apprehended that presence of American troops in Gulf would enhance problems to Islamic World and termed it as a part of conspiracies against Muslims at international level.

Referring to the Afghan situation, the Mujahideen leaders outrightly rejected the proposal of holding elections under the supervision of United Nations and made it clear that Mujahideen would not form any coalition government with the communist elements of Afghanistan.

They also vowed to resist return of the former King Mohammad Zahir Shah as head of the impartial interim government which according to them would create obstacles in way of Mujahideen for setting up an Islamic government.

The meeting through a resolution demanded establishment of a true Islamic government in Afghanistan and induction of a joint Islamic Shura of the Mujahideen to unify them on a single platform.

NATION JAN 12

TB-detecting unit for Afghan DPs opened

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Jan 12: A mobile unit to detect tuberculosis among Afghan refugees and industrial workers was inaugurated at the Afghan refugee camp on Friday.

The mobile Mass Miniature Radiography unit, donated by the Rotary Club of Ludwigshafen (Germany) in collaboration with the Rotary Club International of Karachi has already been used for screening individual workers of BASF on a commercial basis. An MMR Committee has been formed to operate the unit among Afghan refugees and also labourers.

Those who addressed Friday's gathering included Dr A. Hayee Saeed, President Chest Specialists Panel of Pakistan, German Consul-General Dr H.E. Wagner, Administrator Afghan Refugees, Mr Fazlur Rehman, and representative Rotary Club International Prof. Shareef Chaudhry.

In his welcome address, Dr Saeed said that the Afghan refugees had an average rate of 3 per cent T.B. among them. This, according to him was 2 per cent higher than the incidence of the disease among the average Pakistani factory worker. While AIDS was causing T.B. to flare up in the West, Dr Saeed blamed "heroin addiction" for the spread of the disease in Pakistan.

The MMR Committee formed to regulate the workings of the MMR unit includes Dr A. Hayee Saeed, Dr Asad Sadiq, Dr Farooqui, Mr M. Akbar, Mr Raja Lalli, Mr Shahid Ahmad, Mr Sultan Anwer and Mr V. Rahbein.

Kabul hails Mujaddadi's statement

KARACHI, Jan 12: Afghan Government has welcomed the recent statement by the President of the Afghan Interim Government, Mr Sibghatullah Mujaddedi, in which he was criticised Pakistan's Afghan policy.

A Press release issued here by the Consulate-General of Afghanistan says that a fresh contact between Pakistan and Iran-based Mujahideen and Dr Najibullah's meetings in Mashad with Iran Government authorities and Afghan leaders are positive developments towards a peaceful resolution of the 12-year old conflict.

It appears that not only Dr Najib but the moderate Mujahideen leaders also want a settlement through negotiation. All those forces which are, directly or indirectly, involved in the Afghan conflict can easily find a political solution to the problem engaging themselves in a dialogue with each other, the Press release said.

"Because of the recent changes in the world, the superpowers have also lost their interest in regional conflicts. In fact they genuinely want resolution of all such conflicts. This is evident from their recent efforts in which they have been trying to convince their friends that a real solution can be found only through negotiation and a dialogue", the Press release concludes.

DAWN JAN 13

Mujahideen ready to talk to Moscow

LONDON, Jan. 11: A spokesman of Shoora-i-Aitalaf, the alliance of Teheran-based Afghan organisations Syed Nadir Ali Mehdavi has said that the Afghan Mujahideen are willing to talk to Soviet Union as they considered Moscow as an important factor in Afghan crisis.

During an interview with Agency Afghan Press in Peshawar, the spokesman outrightly rejected the negotiations with Dr. Najib and declared him a "Soviet stooge". He said that the Afghan Mujahideen are not ready to take part in the government or elections in which the Najib clique was also included. Answering a question about the solution of Afghan crisis he said that Soviet Union and USA should not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The Afghan people should be free to choose their way in their own matters. He said that Shoora-i-Aitalaf considered the elections as solution of the problem but at this stage the continuation of Jehad was utmost necessity for eliminating the Najib administration.

he said that Afghan people had sacrificed over 1.5 million of lives to establish Islamic government in the country. He said that the sacrifices could be fruitful if all the aspects for establishing the Islamic government should be fulfilled.

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 12

JAN 26

MUJAHIDEEN KILL 20 REGIME'S MILITIAS

Reports reaching MIDIA's sub-office in Quetta state that the Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime's posts in Sarchashma area, Shahrak district, of Ghor province on Jan.16. As a result, 12 militia combatants were killed while 10 others were captured by the Mujahideen.

Earlier, the Mujahideen had attacked the head-qaurters of Shahrak district on Jan.11 killing eight militias and capturing 6 others. MIDIA

Mujaddadi, Afghan nation at odds on Gulf issue

By MAQBOOL MALIK

Except Professor Sibghatullah Mujaddadi, president of the Afghan Interim Government, the entire Afghan nation has not only condemned the U.S. continued attacks on Iraq but supported the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

According to the statements made by several mujahideen leaders since the Gulf crisis erupted in August last, show that entire Afghan nation was backing Iraq, while AIG President Sibghatullah Mujaddadi continued his reluctance to express his support. Interestingly the Afghan President Najibullah has appeared more active in declaring his support to the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and condemning the U.S. action.

Yet the AIG ranks appeared to have been divided. The prime minister, Professor Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf, while condemning the U.S. action against Iraq suggested a political solution of the crisis. Same was the reaction of the Hezb-i-Islami chief Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar. On contrary to the unanimous stand taken by the mujahideen, the AIG president was still supporting the U.S.-led allied forces action. Last week the president was reported to have reiterated his stand while talking to newsmen in Islamabad.

The Frontier Post learnt through reliable sources that the AIG president was still in favour of sending mujahideen to Saudi Arabia as part of the allied forces. It is learnt that the plan was still under consideration of send the first contingent of 200 mujahideen.

Meanwhile, ANA reported that nation wide Shura of the Afghan commanders have vehemently condemned the indiscriminate aerial bombings by the American and allied forces on the innocent Iraqi people, and have considered it a violation of the U.N. resolutions and all international norms.

In a communique issued here Thursday by the Political Committee of the Nation Wide Shura of Afghan Commanders, it said that the current decade brought very heart soring and sensational events in the Muslim countries. Ten years back the Russian forces intervened in Afghanistan, nine years earlier the Iran-Iraq war erupted which was fought for eight years, two years back Hindu oppression was unleashed on the Muslims of held Kashmir and a year back the Babri Mosque dispute was raised by the Hindu extremists and the mosque was desecrated, while the *Intefada* movement of the innocent Palestinian Muslims was forcibly quelled by the Zionists. The wounds of the Iran-Iraq war were yet to be healed that another catastrophe took over the Muslims in Gulf as a result of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Non-Muslim forces concentrated in Gulf under the aegis of the United Nations thus resulting in igniting a devastating war on Muslims of the region. The whole Muslim community condemned the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait and demanded restoration of its legitimate government but all invain. However, the indiscriminate bombings of the American and allied forces further injured the feelings of Muslims and the so-called U.N. forces even did not bother to refrain from bombing the holy shrines in the Iraqi territory.

The Commanders Shura appealed to the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to withdraw troops from Kuwait.

FRONTIER POST JAN 25

Rs. 432m UNHCR aid for Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD (APP) — A bilateral agreement was signed on Thursday between Pakistan and the chief of mission of the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees here as part of the UNHCR's continued support during 1991 for the Afghan Refugees.

The agreement provides for amount of Rs. 432 million, of which a first instalment of Rs. 108,031,250 will immediately be made available to the government of Pakistan. The agreement covers assistance to some 3.3 million Afghan refugees residing in 350 refugee villages located in the NWFP, Balochistan and Mianwali district.

Major programme sectors covered by this assistance are health care, provision of water and sanitation, procurement of kerosene for cooking, lighting and heating, primary and secondary education, vocational training and income generating activities, construction and maintenance of storage facilities as well as support for the refugee camp administration and logistics.

In addition, Rs. 23,966,500,00 are to be spent by UNHCR on behalf of Pakistan for international procurement of medicine, vehicles, shelter material and various other relief material. The assistance programme is implemented by the states and frontier regions division through the provincial commissionerates for Afghan refugees.

This agreement forms part of a total UNHCR assistance programme in Pakistan of Rs. 52,466,100 during the current year. The programme covers financial support to some 22 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in the implementation of assistance to Afghan refugees. In co-operation with other U.N. agencies and the government of Pakistan, UNHCR will continue to provide assistance to refugees, who wish to return to Afghanistan and fund programmes for the rehabilitation and the reconstruction of Afghanistan in order to create more conducive conditions for return.

UNHCR together with Pakistan will in addition appeal to the donor community in 1991 to approve a third phase of the UNHCR/World Bank co-operation agreement with Pakistan. This project will create employment opportunities for both Pakistanis and Afghan refugees in the rehabilitation of refugee-affected areas in re-afforestation, road reconstruction and irrigation.

This overall contribution shows UNHCR's continuous support to alleviate the plight of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and restore the environmental balance in refugee affected areas. Since 1979, UNHCR's humanitarian assistance programme for Afghan refugees in Pakistan amounts to some $800 million, and as such, constitutes one of the largest UNHCR programmes in the world.

FRONTIER POST JAN 25

Maulavi Khalis stated about the recent shrinkage of foreign aid with the Mujahideen and the Afghan refugees:" The Afghan Mujahideen have always acclaimed and highlighted moral and material assistance of the friendly countries.Afghan people will pay always homage to our faithful friends.It,in the meantime,should be emphasized that sometimes foreign assistance falls in the wrong hands who only make themselves rich over the aid.The present financial problems of the Mujahideen and the refugees have also stem from this fact.I cal such elements despicable.But it is expected that our friends help us rather than the Russians.

Maulavi Khalis disclosed an attack of the communist regime against him which was stepped up during his stay in Nangarhar:" I was talking with the field commanders and elders in a mosque in the Mamakhil village of the Shirzad sub-district of Nangarhar at noon time, on Dec.19, as two Soviet supplied jet fighters of the regime appeared above us and bombed heavily the region.One bomb fell beside the said mosque.One Mujahid received slight wounds and we remained untacted on the blessing of the almighty Allah.

Answering a question on the present crisis in the Gulf, Maulavi Khalis went on to say:"I think the key for settlement of the Gulf crisis is in the hands of Sadam.I believe firmly that the Russian hands are behind Sadam who want to burst a war in the Gulf and deviate international attention from the Afghan issue. All Muslim countries have to joined hands and force the invading and alien forces out of this troubled area.

Maulavi Khalis has appreciated unity of the Pakistan's Jamat-i-Ulema and called upon all Islamic forces in the host country to endores an

JAN 01

JAN 26

MIDIA NOT CLOSED

I I G. REDUCES NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Recently there have been some erroneous reports in a section of the press to the effect that IIGA has fired all its employees and has closed down its offices The Media information Dept. of Islamic Afghanistan (MIDIA) has been specifically named in some reports.

As mentioned above, such reports are erroneous and misleading. It is true that since the Mujahideen could not finance the expenditures of the battlefields as well as those of the IIGA offices to a satisfactory level because of the recent economic difficulties, it was decided by the cabinet of IIGA to reduce the number of the employees to the minimam level possible. Some ministries, for example Education and Pablic Health, will function close to their full capacity. Some others, for example Information and Finance, will function at about half capacity. Others will have boards for planning the future programs and the minimam number of employees needed.

Employees who are laid off are not fired; rether, they are in the waiting list. Whenever the situation improves, they will be invited to resume their work.

Media Information Department (MIDIA) as well as the Publication, film, and Radio departments of the Ministry of Information will continue their activities as before.

Some reports based on rumors note the number of laid off employees at 20 thousand and mention that IIGA is paying enormous amount of money as house rent to its ministers. None of these are true. The total number of IIGA employees is less than eight thousand, and probably about half will continue their work. Moreover, IIGA does not pay as house rent any money to any of its ministers or employees.

JAN 26

(M I D I A)

HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN, TANKS DESTROYED

According to a report from the Kandahar province, Mujahideen shot down a helicopter of the kabul puppet regime in Wandooz area of Arghestan district on January 24. The crew of the helicopter were all killed.

According to another report, the Mujahideen attacked Shahr-e-Safa district of Zabul province on Jan.16. They captured four armoured tanks and set ablazed four army vehicles.

(M I D I A)

Peshawar News

NIFA reiterates support to AIG against Kabul regime

From H.H. Sanaullah

PESHAWAR, Jan. 26: The National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), has reiterated its pledge to continue their struggle against the Kabul regime and support the Afghan Interim Government of Mujahideen, but however, it opposed the attacks on civilian population.

According to a Press release of NIFA, issued here yesterday, NIFA advocated the strategy of pressure on military targets, on the supply routes and the tightening the siege on cities; and also in maintaining contacts with the population within the cities, but said it was "against any frontal attack and indiscriminate bombarding on the cities with many cause of death of thousands of our brothers and sisters in the cities".

Regarding the share of powers with the PDPA, the Press release said that it did not participate in any settlement short of the full control of the Mujahideen on all military and para-military establishments of Kabul regime.

In respect of the present situation in Afghanistan, it said that "NIFA reckons the present stagnancy as a temporary phenomena and the result of the lack of an overall leadership and also the lack of a unified military and political stretegy of the Mujahideen".

PR inspection bodies

On the directive of the Federal Minister for Railways, the General Manager of Pakistan Railways constituted committees of the Principal Officers to inspect the efforts made by the Divisional Superintendents for bringing about improvements on Pakistan Railways.

A committee consisting of Chief Marketing Manager, Chief Engineer and Chief Controller of Stores was nominated for Peshawar Division.

The Committee inspected various stations of the division to check the cleanliness and passenger amenities at the stations. Special attention was paid to the public complaints and working of Reservation Office/Booking/Enquiry Offices on various stations.

The complaints were attended to on the spot to redress their grievances. The cleanliness at the stations was generally found satisfactory. There were, however, serious complaints about the late running of the trains particularly on branch lines.

Accordingly concerned Divisional Officers were instructed to ensure punctual running of the trains. It was noticed by the Committee that punctuality of the trains were affected due to inoperative communication of the stations with the Control Office. An urgent need was, therefore, felt for improving telecommunication system on the division so that proper monitoring and controlling of the trains is done to effect improvement in punctual running of mail/express trains.

Maintenance of the rakes of the trains was also checked and it was generally found satisfactory. However, there was still room for improvement. The Committee, therefore, stressed upon the Divisional Mechanical Engineer to ensure proper maintenance of the passenger coaches to eliminate public complaints.

The Committee also visited branch line sections viz. Kohat, Durgai — Nowshera and Attock City — Kundian and checked ticketless travelling on the section.

One hundred and forty one persons were found travelling without tickets and a sum of Rs. 4697 was recovered from them. Two persons were handed over to Railway Police Kohat Cantt. for prosecution.

The committee also inspected Peshawar City, Peshawar Cantt. Nowshera, Risalpur Cantt. Mardan, Takhtbai, Durgi, Attock City, Basal, Jand, Injra, Daudkhel, Mianwali and Kundian Stations and looked into various public complaits.

Public representatives also met the committee and apprised them of their complaints on the section.

The committee took immediate action on the spot in a number of cases while recommendations have been made for bringing about further improvement for punctual running of trains carrying passengers.

NWFP Christian team call on Janjua

A delegation of Christian Community representing Church of Pakistan called on NWFP Governor Amir Gulistan Janjua at Governor's House, here yesterday.

The delegation led by Rt. Rev: S.L. Alexander, Bishop of Peshawar, apprised the governor about their problems.

While talking to the delegation, the governor said that it was the obligation of the government to safeguard the interests of every citizen irrespective of its religious belief. The people of the Christian community of Pakistan, he said, were as loyal as anyo ther Pakistani could be. He said that the government will take all necessary measures for the security of life and prosperty of its every citizen.

The government, he said, was well-aware of its duties and would leave no stone unturned to carry out its obligations towards public.

The delegation thanked the governor for giving a patient hearing to their problems. The delegation included Father Steger of Roman Caitolic Church, Dr. Wellington James,Dr. R. Pont, Mr. Sammyul Poshi, Mr. Humphery Peter, Dr. Stephen P. Lal and Dr. Anwar Ujagar.

Sherpao's death anniversary

The 16th death anniversary of former NWFP Governor late Hayat Mohammad Khan Sherpao would be observed on Feb. 16.

According to a Press release of PPP, various committees of the workers and leaders of the party at all levels were formed to make arrangements for the public meeting to be held at Sherpao, in this respect.

PML leader's death mourned

The death of prominent Muslim League leader late Yousaf Tanooli, was mourned in the Muslim League circle throughout the province.

The NWFP Senior Minister, Raja Sikandar Zaman Khan, has expressed his profound grief and sorrow over the demise of former MPA and Pakistan Muslim League Provincial Information Secretary Yousaf Tanooli.

In a condolence message he expressed deep sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed that may Almighty Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace and great courage to the members of the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with patience and fortitude.

The NWFP Minister for Labour and Industries, Salim Saifullah Khan, in a condolence message expressed sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul.

The NWFP Minister for Education and Sports, Mohammad Iftikhar Khan Mohmand, in a condolence message said that late Yousaf Tanooli was one of the devoted Muslim Leaguers, who worked relentlessly for the cause of the party throughout his life for which he would always be remembered.

Mr. Iftikhar Khan Mohmand prayed to God Almighty to rest the departed soul in heaven and grant fortitude and courage to the members of his bereaved family to bear this shock with patience.

The NWFP Minister for Finance and Planning and Development, Nawabzada Mohsin Ali Khan, in a condolence message, the minister while appreciating his services for Muslim League said that we have lost an active League worker.

He sympathised with the members of bereaved family and prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the members of bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.

PDA women rally against US

The Women Wing of PDA, yesterday staged a protest rally in Peshawar against the aggression of US and allies forces in the Gulf.

The rally was started from Soekarno Square and after passing through various bazars and streets, the rally culminated at a big meeting at Shaheedan Chowk, Qissa Khwani Bazar in City.

The demonstrators chanted anti-US and anti-Bush slogans and carried banners and playcards inscribed "Saddam is our hero", "stop war in Gulf, and Bring back Pakistani troops from Saudi Arabia".

The rally was addressed by Begum Mehr-un-Nisa Afridi, Begum Afrasiab Khattak, Nugus Samina, Begum Tehmas, Mrs. Imroz Amar and Begum Mumtaz Khan.

The speakers, in their speeches, criticised us attack on Iraq and the killing of thousands of innocent citizens of Iraq.

Sh. Zakaullah's Qul

Qul of late Sheikh Zakaullah, Editor and Publisher of daily 'Khyber Mail', Peshawar, was held at his residence 6 Jamaluddin Afghani Road, University Town, Peshawar, yesterday.

Quran Khwani and Fateha Khawani marked the proceeding of Qul. A large number of people belonging to different walks of life attended.

Amir Gulistan Janjua, Governor NWFP, visited the residence of late Sheikh Zakaullah at University Town, and offered Fateha on his demise.

The governor prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the members of the bereaved family.

The governor sympathised with his brother Sheikh Inayatullah and son Prof. Sheikh Arfanullah and other members of the bereaved family.

Meanwhile, the NWFP Chief Minister, Mir Afzal Khan, has expressed his heart felt grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Sheikh Zakaullah, who has been laid to rest.

In a condolence message issued here yesterday, Mir Afzal Khan has paid great tributes to the deceased for his services in the field of journalism. In his death, the chief minister added, the nation particularly the people of NWFP were deprived of a great journalist.

The NWFP Minister for Irrigation and Public Health Engineering, Farid Khan Toofan also paid a visit to the residence of late Sheikh Zakaullah, and offered Fateha for the departed soul.

The Provincial Minister symphatised with the members of the bereaved families and prayed that Almighty Allah may bless the departed souls in the eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the irreparable loss with patience.

SIDBEU's appeal to NWFP minister

The Small Industries Development Board Employees Union has appealed to the provincial government and Salim Saifullah Khan, Provincial Minister for Commerce and Industries, to help them get rid of the Managing Director Iftikhar Ali Shah and save the board from destruction.

In a Press release Mian Hakim Shah, General Secretary of the union said that the said Managing Director was resorted to the closure of industries, victimisation of the employees, abusing and creating problems for the provincial governments.

The Press release demanded a stop of the police raids on the house of Mian Hakeem Shah, their General Secretary, recalling of the charge sheet/inquiry initiated against him, forbidding the officers enterference in their union, restriction of government transport for personal use and the pasting of government No. plates on government vehicles, and the immediate transfer of the present managing director of the board.

The SIDB Employees Union also appealed to the MPAs and MNAs, Muttahida Labour Federation, Khazana Suger Milles Labour Federation and other trade unions for intervention and saving the SIDB employees from victimisation.

The Government of Azad Kashmir is going to arrange a function in the honour of "Mujahideen and Shuhadai-Kashmir" of NWFP and Tribal areas on Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. at Pearl Continental Hotel, Peshawar.

In the function, the Mujahideen would be awarded medals of Helal-i-Kashmir, Fakhri Kashmir, Shaheede Jang and Mujahid Haider, while cash prizes would be awarded to the heirs of Shuhada-e-Jihad-e-Kashmir 1948.

The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Mumtaz Hussain Rathore will be the chief guest.

Attention readers

The Pakistan Times, Islamabad has introduced a brief column *"District Mail* to accommodate letters to the Editor from the people of NWFP.

All letters should be delivered to *The Pakistan Times* Peshawar Bureau for onward mailing to Islamabad.—**H.H. Sanaullah, Bureau Chief, The Pakistan Times, Peshawar, 7-D, Rafiqui Lane, Phone 76182.**

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 27

NATION JAN 25

US-Soviet agreement on Afghanistan at stake

News Analysis

By Ahmed Rashid

Special to The Nation

LAHORE—In the first signal that the Soviet army has increased its grip over Soviet foreign policy, Moscow has reassured President Najibullah of Afghanistan continued military and economic aid through 1991. The chances of a Soviet-US peace settlement over Afghanistan, which were almost certain while Eduard Shevardnadze was Foreign Minister, have now been seriously jeopardized.

Moscow announced last week that Afghanistan would receive Rubles 400 million (US $714 million) in aid for 1991. Of this sum Rubles 280 million would be grant aid compared to Rubles 120 grant aid given in 1990. Rubles 40 million have been allocated solely for the defence of Kabul airport and the Salang Highway that links Kabul with the Soviet border, which have been frequently attacked by the Mujahideen. Last week the Mujahideen fired at least 11 rockets into Kabul and the airport.

However, these figures do not include the direct aid Kabul receives in food, fuel and other consumer items in separate aid deals with the Soviet Central Asian Republics. Senior Pakistani diplomats and Afghan Mujahideen leaders said that these enormous funds allocated to the Kabul regime demonstrate that the Soviet army has no intention of striking a peace deal on Afghanistan in the near future, despite the acute economic hardship within the Soviet Union. Sources said that one of the reasons for Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation last month was the insistence by the army that Moscow should continue to support President Najibullah. General Boris Gromov, the recently appointed Deputy Interior Minister, who is reportedly one of the prime backers of the tough line against the Baltic Repubics, was the last Commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan and has been a major advocate of continued support to Najibullah.

The US estimates that Moscow has supported President Najibullah by supplying him with an estimated 250 million dollars in military and economic aid every month since 1988. Western diplomats believed that Moscow's inability to afford this much longer, was encouraging the Soviets to go for a settlement with the US.

In their last meeting in Texas in December, former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker were within a whisper of signing an agreement on negative symmetry or the cessation of arms from both sides to their respective proteges – the Mujahideen and the Kabul regime. However, under what is now believed to be pressure from the Soviet army, Mr Shervardnadze belatedly pushed for a ceasefire in the 12: year-old war and that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia also stop their arms shipments to the Mujahideen. There were also disagreements over when negative symmetry should start and the format of an interim government in Kabul.

In the past few months there have been increasing signs in Moscow that the army, fearful for Islamic fundamentalism creeping into the Central Asian Republics from Afghanistan, saw the continuation of the Najibullah regime as the only bulwark for long term Soviet security. Even though President Najibullah only controls Afghan cities and some key roads, he has thwarted all Mujahideen attempts to oust him militarily and also crushed a number of internal coup attempts by the Afghan army.

The war inside Afghanistan has been stalemated for over a year and Soviet Generals clearly believe that the loss of interest in the US Congress on the Afghan issue, the divisions within the Mujahideen and now the Gulf war will force Washington to gradually drop its aid to the Mujahideen. Pakistan is still pushing for a Myjahideen military victory and has recently urged the Mujahideen leadership to hold elections within liberated areas of Afghanistan to create an alternative government. On the last meeting of the Afghan cell on December 26th, Pakistan's policy-makers once again were reluctant to try any new initiatives to resolve the Afghan crisis. The UN efforts to persuade all sides to talk and start a process, by which President Najibullah could gradually relinquish power, now also appear to be interminably stalled.

The Soviet army now appears to dominate those areas of Soviet foreign policy where national security is at stake, particularly in those countries like Afghanistan that border the Soviet Union. This could also mean a return to the Soviet hardline against Pakistan for its support to the Mujahideen.

Thousands of AIG workers sacked

From MURTAZA MALIK

PESHAWAR, Jan 26: Several thousand employees constituting more than 50 per cent of the total strength of the Afghan Interim Government have been sacked due to financial difficulties. According to another report the number was as high as 80 per cent.

The AIG had started feeling the economic pinch several months back when the aid donating countries including America and Saudi Arabia drastically reduced the amount of assistance and diverted the funds to the war preparations in the Gulf. Since August last the Afghan Mujahideen had received no money from the chief donors but there were conflicting reports on the subject as a section of the Mujahideen group claimed that the AIG had received Rs 35 million during the last six months.

Some of the AIG ministries have been wound up totally, while in others it ranged from 20 to 80 per cent. In many cases the employees including teachers had not been paid salaries for almost five months while as an economy measure the office of the AIG Prime Minister has also been shifted to the refugee camp near Chamkani.

MUSLIM JAN 27

Soviets can make it an American Afghanistan

SITUATIONER

Developments on both the war and diplomatic fronts suggest that while military strategy of the combatants becomes clearer, the imponderables what the future holds in strategic terms gets more difficult to forecast. While the prognosis of the latter are fundamentally based on the former: it is'nt necessarily so. The events of the last four days positively indicate that Moscow is actively reexamining its position in this war. Having seen that despite tall claims to the contrary the Western Allies have achieved little on the battlefield, they smell that now they can strategically gain enormously by altering their erstwhile policy in this conflict. Not only there have been reports that Moscow may be technically aiding Baghdad's war efforts, Kremlin has diplomatically taken up the stance of publicly distancing itself from Washington's use of force against Iraq. If this process continues, it's very easy for the Soviets to turn the Gulf War into an American Afghanistan.

In terms of long term alliances, the Western efforts to use force in an unprecedented manner against a small Third World Muslim country, manifest the identicity of goals and values that Washington shares with London and Paris. Japan's decision to support such ventures establishes its realisation of being entirely dependent on the Middle Eastern oil for its industrial production, and on the West, particularly the US, for

Contd. Page back

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Situationer

From Page 1

making its sales. But for Moscow, the *quid pro quo* for bettering its economic well-being is in the rapid erosion of its international political prestige. There has been, as the recent crackdown in Lithuania indicates, a policy change in respect of, therefore, its outlook towards the West. Gorbachev's military, it has been widely reported, has also something to do with this subtle reappraisal. While Moscow could afford to be liberal for propaganda purposes in the emancipation of its former client states of Eastern Europe, it could not do so for other areas such as the Baltic states or its five southern Republics, where non Caucacians live. Hence, we might well expect that Gorbachev is about to put into effect a different posture in respect of the Gulf conflict than seen thus far.

I might, therefore, begin by first noticing the major political occurrences of the past twenty four hours. The Security Council meeting called into session by Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Mauritania and Morocco not and debated the possibilities of a ceasefire for several hours in a closed-door session. None of the sponsors of this session are currently its members. But informed sources indicate that in to-day's meeting Washington, London and Paris strenuously opposed any session to discuss their war efforts until victory is achieved against Saddam Hussein.

India forcefully argued against this position asserting that the primary duty of the UN, if not the only one, is to achieve peace, not to wage war. Apparently both Moscow and China supported this plea. But it is very easy for the Kremlin to accomplish the same ends,' of preventing American hegemonic controll of areas so close to its southern borders, by coming to the aid of Baghdad. Whether or not it does so, as Washington did to her in Afghanistan, will become clear fairly soon.

As indicated by me yesterday, I feel that if our Government is sanguine in ending the war quickly, and is lowering its profile in the anti-Iraq lobby on account of manifest and comprehensive domestic pressure, it should join in Indian efforts to again press for the Security Council session. If the Western powers block this effort, immediate steps be taken to convene an emergency session of the General Assembly under the procedure known as the Uniting for Peace Resolution of 1952. I have little doubt that Washington cannot possibly obtain a majority vote in this body as clearly now most of the Third World countries realise that while Washington and London may gain both strategically and economically by this war in the long run, they themselves are bound to become heavy losers indefinitely in terms of their economies.

Besides countries like India rightly feel that their strategic interests are being threatened. Indeed, as I see it ours are too...but then I realise that by and large, with Zia's possible exception, few of our rulers realise the dire need to address this matter objectively. As I had pointed out earlier there does not appear to be a single established analyst of strategic studies in our policy making hierarchy. The least our Premier could have done is to get oot of his bureaocratic circle in this field and establish some committee which could independently advise him of what now to do.

On the war front several notable events occurred today. Refuting the Western Allied claims of the capture of the unknown Khurra Island, Radio, Baghdad ridiculed it as having been already left unattended as it had no military value. Discussion amongst BBC experts indicated that Saodi Arabia and Kuwait did not quite even know where it is, and who legally owns it. But the two big non-worthy matters were Iraqi Scud missile attacks on both Tel Aviv, and Riyadh. The former took place at 9 p.m. our time and severely damaged areas where they fell. The BBC correspondent, who by chance personally saw Patriots being fired to intercept the Scuds, admitted that nothing of the kind happened. Brigadier Shei, the Israeli military spokesman while refusing to give details admitted that serious casualties had resulted. Similarly around 1.30 a.m. our time, Riyadh was struck successfully. Just as I write President Bush came on the national T.V yet again and despite being shaken, vowed to find a way to stop such attacks. In strategic terms, while military targets may not be hit by such Iraqi firing, it has caused much upsetting of the pre-planned Western allied war manoeuvres and forced shifting of key personnel from the war front. In yesterday's press briefing analysed by me of General Powell, this phenomenon had been candidly acknowledged.

The second big war story to break out today was the drifting of a vast oil slick, described to be ten miles long and five to seven miles wide, drifting down in the Persian Gulf. The US was furious that Iraq had done so by opening a pipeline from Kuwait into the sea, and by hitting two oil terminals to produce this effect. But the Iraqi UN ambassador, Dr. Ambari, had already circulated as an official UN document,its version of what happened. As reported earlier by me, they say it is the result of US attack on two of its tankers and a hovercraft.

Whatever the cause, it caused frenzy so even President Bush who called it "environmental terrorism." But no one can now escape its military consequences. Not only amphibious attack on the Kuwaiti coast becomes difficult, the anchored Allied war ships are in great danger of being set on fire, and Saudi water and cleaning facilities down its eastern coast are bound to get eventually useless. As I see it, this is Baghdad's military response to the accusations recently begun by the Allies through their admittedly powerful navies.

In the news conferences held by Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney in Washington and by Sir David Kreggt, the British equivalent of a Chief of Joint Chiefs, it was conceded that the war may now go on for a long time. Sir David, however, made it clear that no ground offensive will be launched, until Iraq's morale had been devastated by aerial bombardment. On the other hand Iraq said that in the past day 111 air raids were conducted against her and that another 14 planes or missiles had been shot down. As she sees the war, it has gone according to her plan. Iraq will continue to fight a defensive war as that is in her interest. The weather is now very significant. If Iraq says as it is, by the end of February, it will start getting uncomfortably warm. In March the Ramadan will start, forcing the Arab coalition partners of Washington to have to recede somewhat in their antagonism towards Saddam Hussein: but simoltancously sand storms begin around this time there is a discord between the Americans and the British on this issue. While the latter want to wait, the former are restless to attack as quickly as possible. In addition to the climatic heat, Washington knows the public heat its own liberal population can generate as the war gets longer.

Another matter prominently noticed by various international broadcasters today and prominently projected by the BBC was the increasing tension between the press and the Pentagon officials. The latter are convinced that they are not being given accurate information about the happenings on the war front.

Even President Bush was against that the CNN reporters actually filmed the initial bombardment of Baghdad! He knows the impact of such instant reproduction of war events produces on the people at home. Today, Pete Wilson the Pentagon press spokesman was horrified that the T.V had in some cases pre-empted the official wire reports sent by military commanders.

This acrimony is likely to get worse. The Washington administration knows what happened in Vietnam; now the press has much greater ability in particularly instantaneous T.V coverage. As such not only it is more difficult for the Pentagon to hide the truth for long, it is deeply conscious of what international reaction will be when the havoc wrecked by the world's premier Power on a small Third World country is seen by audiences worldwide.

Both White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater and State Deptt's Margret Tutwiler feared that this is going to be a long war. This statement was apparently issued since many members of the Congress have begun questioning the claims submitted by President Bush to them while getting their affirmative vote for war. They have been alleging that they only voted for war, since they had been convinced, that that was the best chance for preventing war. Whether they were duped, or it once again Washington miscalculated about Saddam Hussein's unflinching resolve, will be known in due coorse.

Quite clearly, neither on the ground nor in propaganda, the war is proceeding as Washington desired on Jan. 16 when it attacked Iraq.

U.S. humanitarian aid for Afghans not decreased

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — Figures just released in Washington confirm that United States government funding for the Afghanistan cross border humanitarian assistance programme in 1991 will be nearly as high as for the previous year. The total amount allocated is 60 million dollars.

This does not include PL-480 wheat and other food commodities nor the Afghan patient programme, which are handled in separate accounts and which will total over 17.5 million dollars. The Afghan humanitarian programme is administered by the AID (Agency for International Development) representative for Afghanistan affairs with offices in Peshawar, Quetta and Islamabad.

According to a USIS press release issued here on Monday, the largest amount of 18.5 million dollars will be spent for agriculture, rural development and narcotics awarness and control activities inside Afghanistan and will include improved seed varieties and fertiliser as well as kareez cleaning and repair. Over 8.2 million will be spent on education, 7.6 million dollars on health, and roughly 13.5 million dollars on road repair, transportation and training dogs for demining. Various private voluntary organisations, such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Care and Mery Cops International will also be funded at about 11 million dollars. Programme support cost are 1.3 million.

In addition actual expenditure of the cross border humanitarian programme in contrast to projected expenditures in the first quarter of fiscal year 1991 were the highest ever. The total spent in the first three months of the fiscal year was $15.3 million.

Since the beginning of the Afghan Humanitarian Programme, approved by the U.S. Congress in 1985-86, over a third of a billion dollars, has been spent to support and sustain the Afghan people. The largest shares of this amount have gone for food, health, and agriculture. Budget planning in Washington indicates a similar amount of about $60 million for humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan will be recommended by the administration for 1992.

FRONTIER POST JAN 29

AIG clarifies position on Gulf crisis

F.P. Report

Director information, Afghan Interim Government (AIG), in Peshawar, has announced that the entire Afghan resistance stood by its Iraqi Muslim brothren despite the pro-American statement recently issued by the President AIG, Sibghatullah Mujaddadi. The text of the statement follows:

The presidency of the Islamic Interim Government of Afghanistan categorically rejects the news item published in a section of the press recently that "except prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddedi, president of the Afghan Interim Government, the entire Afghan nation has not only condemned the U.S. continued attacks on Iraq, but supported the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein". The news item also added that "the entire Afghan nation was backing Iraq, while AIG president, Sibghatullah Mujaddedi continued his reluctance to express his support. And the AIG president was still in favour of sending mujahideen to Saudi Arabia as part of the allied forces".

The presidency of the Islamic Interim Government of Afghanistan, while describing this news item entirely false and baseless, clarifies its policy regarding the Gulf situation as follows:-

All Iraqi troops should leave Kuwait and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait should be restored.

The decision to despatch a small contingent of the Afghan mujahideen to Saudi Arabia was taken by the Islamic Interim Government of Afghanistan—to defend Haramain al-Sharifain, and not as part of the allied forces.

We oppose any type of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any country and hope that the Gulf crisis would be settled through political means.

FRONTIER POST JAN 29

US aid for Afghanistan to continue

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 28: Figures just released in Washington confirm that United States government funding for the Afghanistan cross-border humanitarian assistance programme in 1991 will be nearly as high as for the previous year. The total amount allocated is $60,000,000 (sixty million dollars).

This does not include PL-480 wheat and other food commodities, nor the Afghan patient programme, which are handled in separate accounts, and which will total over $17.5 million. The Afghan humanitarian programme is administered by the AID (Agency for International Development) Representative for Afghanistan Affairs, with offices in Peshawar, Quetta and Islamabad.

The largest amount of the $60 million, or $18.5 million, will be spent for agriculture, rural development, and narcotics awareness and control activities inside Afghanistan, and will include improved seed varieties and fertiliser as well as kareez cleaning and repair. Over $8.2 million will be spent on education, $7.6 million health, and roughly $13.5 million on road repair, transportation, and training dogs for demining. Various private voluntary organisations, such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC), CARE, and Mercy Corps International will also be funded at about $11 million. Programme supports costs are 1.2 million.

In addition, actual expenditure of the Cross-Border humanitarian programme (in contrast to projected expenditures) in the first quarter of fiscal year 1991 were the highest they have ever been. The total spent in the first three months of the fiscal year was $15.3 million.—USIS

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 29

Iraq to prove Afghanistan

Germany, Japan to emerge power centres: Beg

From Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD—In his first public statement after the Gulf war erupted, the Chief of Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg has said that the United States of America will meet the same fate in this war as Soviet Union had to face after military intervening in Afghanistan.

He was speaking to the officers of the Pakistan Army at GHQ on Sunday where about 600 officers from the rank of Captain to Major-General were present. Sources who attended say that the COAS decided to speak because he felt that the time had come that his officers should know the feelings of the Pakistan military concerning the country's positioning of the Gulf war. The COAS spoke just 10-hour before the Prime Minister was about to speak to the Press after the completion of his Gulf peace mission.

Elaborating the rationale for his talk to the officers further, he said: 'We are professional soldiers and we can fulfil our obligations better if we understand and comprehend the dynamics of events and happenings determining the prevailing environment. The COAS also focussed on Afghanistan, Kashmir, the security environment of the region, threats to Pakistan and military preparedness.

The full statement of the speech was released by the ISPR to the media. The whole speech of the COAS was a military and political statement on the Gulf war, in which the views of the Pakistan military came out in the public for the first time. Gen beg analysing the whole war said that the new game plan was primarily aimed at politically neutralising the countries, which could not be defeated militarily while dividing the others and making them fight amongst themselves.

In this aspect, the COAS mentioned what he called the two giants, Iran and Iraq who he said had become so formidable and a constant threat to Israel that they had to be neutralised and their strength diluted. 'Iraq was encouraged to invade Kuwait which provided enough justification for initiating this war," he said. Recognising Iran as an important player in the Gulf region and with enough powers to influence the war, he said that all efforts in this respect must be made in cooperation with Iran to get Iraqi aggression vacated from Kuwait with simultaneous pullout of foreign forces from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pointing to the contradictions in the war scenario, Gen. Beg said that Iraq was guilty of aggression but 'the political and military logics of this war are contradictory. Politically, the UN had allowed the allied forces to use force to liberate Kuwait and not to destroy Iraq economically and militarily'. Gen. Beg accused the allied forces of being in too much of a hurry to start the war. He said that all efforts in this respect had not been exhausted and it could have been deterred had all avenues for a negotiated and peaceful settlement been fully explored. 'Even at this stage, it was expedient to launch peace initiatives as has rightly been done by our Prime Minister.'.

Referring to his old theory of strategic consensus, Gen. Beg said: "It was vital that strategic consensus must be reached among the States of the region to provide a meaningful deterrence." This time, however, Gen. Beg did not name the countries of the region who should participate in this strategic consensus. Gen. Beg who spoke for nearly half an hour made it very clear that there should be simultaneous pullout of foreign forces from Saudi Arabia.

Though cautioning against seeking solution through street politics, which could be detrimental to national interests, he added that the current wave of reactions are a strange mix of feelings encompassing *Ishq-i-Rasool* and hatred for *jurm-i-Yazid*. The ferocity with with Iraqi people are being killed, it appears as if the tragedy of Karbala is being renacted. Warning that this was going to be a long war, he said that there will be no victors as "all will be losers."

Ridiculing the approach of the allied forces, he said that "how much the allied forces are ready to suffer and sacrifice will ultimately decide the fate of war". The allied forces, he said, were counting their gains in terms of dollars. Those who defeated Hitler never counted their dollars, rather they paid in blood and sweat to achieve the objective, he said.

Warning once again of the long continuity of the war, Gen. Beg said that it was likely to expand the area of conflict, leading to greater contradictions and complication. "It is, therefore, imperative to limit the war in the time and space dimensions."

Forseeing the consequences of war, whether a short or a long one, Gen. Beg said that it would result in the reshuffling of the existing geopolitical order in the region, ultimately leading to the regional security arrangements. The time had come, reminded Gen. Beg in conclusion that it was now logical to also adopt a similar approach to liberate Palestine and Kashmir.

APP adds: General Beg said that the genesis of the Gulf war could be traced back to the Arab-Israel conflicts of 1948, 1956 and 1967 in which Arab armies were defeated. It was, however, in 1973, that the myth of Israel's invincibility was broken which led to a major shift in the Zionists' strategy in the region. The new game plan was primarily aimed at politically neutralising the countries, which could not be defeated militarily, while dividing the others and making them fight amongst themselves.

He cited in this regard the 15-year long war of Lebanon which is still waging and the eight-year long Iran-Iraq war which caused so much of death and destruction, but ironically produced two military giants — Iran and Iraq. They became so formidable and constant threat to Israel that they had to be neutralised and their strength diluted. He said that Iraq was encouraged to invade Kuwait which provided enough justification for initiating this war.

The Army Chief said that the entire civilised world has joined the war against Iraq without having first tried the options of seeking a peaceful solution. No doubt, Iraq is guilty of aggression against Kuwait but, he said, in his view, more time should have been given to it to realise the pitfalls of its own mistake.

Giving his assessment of the war, General Beg said that it could well drag into weeks and months but the consequences would be very devastating and the possibility of removing aggression from Kuwait would become that much remote. He said that the long-term outcome of a war can be contrary to the expectations.

He said 'there is a threat to our holy places in Makkah and Madina and the sacred shrines in Iraq. What has added to this anxiety is the distrust of the United States among the people who fully know that Israel's security interests are dearer to them than anyone else.

The Army chief said that it was a matter of great satisfaction that our national Government is showing political realism and is striving to achieve harmony and consensus on issues emanating from the Gulf war. He further reiterated that the political Government, which is fully representative, has provided political stability to the country while the Armed Forces, having acquired the capability to deter war, have reduced the threat to national security.

It is, therefore, imperative, he added, that full opportunities be provided to the elected Government to freely deliberate on this issue and find options to deal with the problem. "Any attempt to seek solution through street politics will be deterimental to national interests," he cautioned.

General Beg said that to win a war, the objectives of war must be very clear and must also be attainable, whereas in this war such objectives have remained uncertain and foggy. He said that the force were assembled in the region with the manifestly stated objective of defending Saudi Arabia and liberating Kuwait.

But once the war was started it was announced on the very first day that threat to Israel was eliminated, but the war will continue till Iraq's nuclear and military potential was destroyed and its economic and industrial power was annihilated. Shifting of objectives, would not only deny the achievement of the objectives but may also cause loosening of grip on the course of events, making the outcome uncertain, he stressed.

General Beg said that there may will be a stalemate in the Gulf war as it was started on the faulty assumption that are mere quantitative and technological superiority of the air power would win the war. Air power alone, he said, cannot win the war just as the land forces alone cannot win without the air power.

He further opined that the land battle may not be initiated as there were little chances of strategic gains. And if at all it is launched, it will be at the narrow neck close to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. Kuwait could be severed but the Iraqi forces will still be intact on the main land and may continue to give a determined fight. The war extending into the summer months, he said, may prove to be disastrous for the American and other Western armies because they are not used to fighting under such severe weather conditions.

NATION JAN 29

JAN 30

MUJAHIDEEN LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE

ATTACK ON SHINDAND AIRBASE

The Mujahideen attacked on the Shindand airbase on Jan.25. A Mujahideen source reported to MIDIA. As a result 14 army officers, soldiers and militiamen were killed and 30 others injured.

The military bases recived quite damage, there is no report of Mujahideen casualties the source added. **(MIDIA)**

MUJAHIDEEN KILL 16 ARMYMEN

The Mujahideen under the Command of captain Abdul Basir attacked on the regime's convoy on Goga Munda Road, Koh-e-Safi, Dehsabz district of Kabul province, On Jan. 26. A Mujahideen source reported to MIDIA.

AS a result 2 tanks and a truck were distroyed, and 16 armymen were killed, some others injured, also one Mujahid injured. **(MIDIA)**

an Islamic Law in all sphere of their Islamic society.

In the conclusion, Maulavi Khalis asserted that no one invited us to come to Pakistan and neither any one wantsto get us away, but I prefere to transfere our major offices inside Afghanistan and leave only our representatives here in our friendly country. MIDIA

JAN 01

MUJAHIDEEN'S MISSILES HIT KABUL'S PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY

The Jandullah Front in a dispatch reported to MIDIA that the Mujahideen bombed the Presidential Palace and the Soviet embassy in Kabul with long-range Saccar missiles on Dec.27.

The headquarters of the fourth armor squadron of the regime was also hit by the Mujahideen's surface-to-surface missiles.The report added.

Meanwhile, another report says from the Abbazak area of Logar that the Mujahideen pounded the outposts of this region with heavy artillery at the result of which three posts fell to Mujahideen yesterday Dec.31.MIDIA

Mujahideen launch fresh attacks

As many as eight posts of the Kabul regime were captured and heavy human and material losses inflicted on the regime forces when mujahideen unleashed a surprise attack on the southern security belt of Kabul in Logar, 30 kilometres south of Kabul city, reports Afghan News Agency.

According to reports the mujahideen of Chak and Saeed Abad fronts, headed by commander Chargul Nisar attacked four security posts and captured. Mujahideen also attacked the rocket garrison.

Four other posts fell to mujahideen at the Koh-e-Saudagar, south to Kabul.

The group commanders who captured one military post each included Eid Mohammad, Fazal Yar and Rahim. Dr. Saleem headed the operation command and captured one security post atop the hill. The mujahideen also entered the Abazak military base of the regime where fierce fighting is still continuing. Six mujahideen have been reported injured in this attack.

Meanwhile, mujahideen attacked the industrial city of Baghlan, the 20th division of army and other security posts in Baghlan province, north of Kabul in which 35 regime soldiers were killed. In these operations mujahideen destroyed one tank, one armoured vehicle, one BM-16 rocket launcher, one Grenov machine gun and one jeep. Two civilians including a woman were killed and 10 others were injured in the retaliatory attack of regime forces.

In another report, mujahideen commander Faiz Mohammad disclosed that mujahideen captured the following regime military officers in the current operations against the regime:-

Brigadier Syed Amanullah, operation commander of the 80th regiment, Col. Nooruddin, commander Mohammad Nazir, Shah Ghulam, Head Commander Brig. Mohammad Rahim, Capt. Mohammad Yaseen and Col. Kahir Mohammad. Mujahideen have also captured a number of regime soldiers.

FRONTIER POST JAN 01

Mujahideen indispensable to Afghan settlement: Khalis

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 1: Maulavi Mohammad Yunos Khalis, the Interior Minister of the IIGA who was on a working tour of the Nangarhar province, returned on Dec. 31 to Peshawar and gave an interview to a special correspondent of MIDIA in his residence, here in Shamshatu refugees camp.

Answering a question Maulavi Khalis said: The recent election programme of the IIGA have to be confirmed for bringing a national consensus and provide grounds for settlement of the Afghan problem. The elected representatives for Shura and Loya Jirga (grand Assembly of the Afghans), can play a dominant role in the future of Afghanistan, for they will be the most influential tribal chieftains, ulema, field commanders, hailing from all walks of the people of Afghanistan.

When the Interior Minister of the IIGA was asked as to express his view on a recent programme of the Mujahideen that all seven Mujahideen major parties have to send 25 representatives for a Shura, he stated: Although work for the second programme is going on by the Mujahideen leaders, I prefere the Hal Va Aqd representatives for they encompass all section of the Afghan society. The second programme is complyable in case that the first election programme of the Mujahideen fails due to certain reason.

Maulavi Khalis said about the recent plans of the puppet Najib: "The Mujahideen will never sit together with the national traiters and foreign puppets and neither will they make a joint commission with the detested regime. The actual sides in the Afghan problem are the Russians and the Mujahideen. Najib should be considered as a guard of the Russians. The Mujahideen in any case should be the predominent force of the future of Afghanistan.

Maulavi Khalis stated about the recent shrinkage of foreign aid with the Mujahideen and the Afghan refugees: The Afghan Mujahideen have always acclaimed and highlighted moral and material assistance of the friendly countries. Afghan people will pay always homage to our faithful friends. It, in the meantime, should be emphasised that sometimes foreign assistance falls in the wrong hands who only make themselves rich over the aid. The present financial problems of the Mujahideen and the refugees have also stem from this fact. I call such elements despicable. But it is expected that our friends help us rather than the Russians.

Maulavi Khalis disclosed on attack of the communist regime against him which was stepped up during his stay in Nagarhar: "I was talking with the field commanders and elders in a mosque in the Mamakhil village of the Shirzad sub-district of Nangarhar at noon time, on Dec. 19, as two Soviet supplied jet fighters of the regime appeared above us and bombed heavily the region. One bomb fell beside the said mosque. One Mujahid received slight wounds and we remained untacted on the blessing of the Almighty Allah.

Answering a question on the present crisis in the Gulf, Maulavi Khalis went on to say: I think the key for settlement of the Gulf crisis is in the hands of Saddam. I believe firmly that the Russian hands are behind Saddam who want to brust a war in the Gulf and deviate international attention from the Afghan issue All Muslim countries have to joined hands and force the invading and alien forces out of this troubled area.

Maulavi Khalis has appreciated unity of the Pakistan's Jamat-i-Ulema and called upon all Islamic forces in the host country to endores an Islamic law in all sphere of their Islamic society.

In the conclusion, Maulavi Khalis asserted that no one invited us to come to Pakistan and neither any one wants to get us away, but I prefere to transfer our major offices inside Afghanistan and leave only our representatives here in our friendly country.

PAKISTAN TIMES

JAN 02

7 refugee kids freeze to death

QUETTA (APP) — Severe cold spell, which is gripping a major part of the northern and central Balochistan, including Quetta valley claimed seven more lives on Tuesday, official sources said.

The latest casualty report came from the two tentage Afghan refugee camps of Surkhab and Saranan, where seven minor children were frozen to death.

Earlier, three bodies were recovered from a truck near the city. The truck was stranded in the snow and its three occupants freze to death.

Two persons were found dead in their car on Saturday last near Kan Mehtarzai.

There was slight improvement in weather on Tuesday as the maximum temperature rose to the freezing point. The minimum temperature was recorded at minus 8.3 degree centigrade.

FRONTIER POST

JAN 02

Mujahideen bomb presidential palace, Soviet embassy

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 1: The Jandullah Front in a dispatch reported to Midia that the Mujahideen bombed the presidential palace and the Soviet embassy in Kabul with long-range Saccar missiles on Dec. 27.

The headquarters of the fourth armour squadron of the regime was also hit by Mujahideen's surface-to-surface missiles, the report added.

Meanwhile, another report says from the Abbazak area of Logar that the Mujahideen pounded the outposts of this region with heavy artillery as the result of which three posts fell to Mujahideen on Dec. 31.—PPI.

PAKISTAN TIMES

JAN 02

New Delhi offers wheat to Kabul

NEW DELHI (DPA) — India has offered 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan, the United News of India (UNI) reported on Monday.

The agency said the offer was made by Indian commerce minister Subramaniam Swamy when he arrived on Sunday in the Afghan capital, Kabul, to begin a three-day official visit.

Swamy was quoted as saying that New Delhi also planned to export 400 buses to Kabul. The minister is scheduled to meet Afghan President Najibullah and others during the tour.

UNI said Swamy is scheduled to sign a trade accord with his Afghan counterpart.

FRONTIER POST

JAN 01

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 02

Mujahideen, refugees stage rallies against USSR

PT Bureau

PESHAWAR, Jan. 1: The Afghan Mujahideen and refugees affiliated with different resistance groups staged protest rallies at different places in and around Peshawar's to express their indignation against Soviet Union on the occasion of 11th anniversary of Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Two major rallies were held in Pabbi and Warsak near Peshawar.

Over 15,000 Afghan refugees, Mujahideen and officials of interim government of Afghan Mujahideen participated in a protest gathering at Niazi Hall at Pabbi at the headquarters of Ittehade Islami Afghanistan.

Prof. Abdur Rab Rasool Sayyaf, Prime Minister of AIG, Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, chief of Jamiat-I-Islami Afghanistan, and other top leaders were the speakers.

Another big meeting was held at Warsak refugees camp under the auspices of the Hezbi-Islami Afghanistan (Hikmatyar). It was addressed by Naib Amir of Hezbi Islami, Maulvi Abdul Waris.

During the speeches, the audience raised thunderous cries of 'Allah-o-Akbar' and other slogans. Revolutionary songs were also sung by some youth and children. After the meeting, an effigy of the Najib wearing red clothing was burned among the shouts and cries of the audiences.

Earlier, people at the meetings through different routes raised vociforous slogans against the Soviet Union, United States of America and the Kabul administration and demanded the immediate removal of Najib and establishment of unelected Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Prof. Sayyaf deplored and condemned the enemical attitude of the superpowers towards the Afghan Mujahideen and Islam.

Prof. Rabbani said "the Afghan Jehad had many positive implications on the world affairs, but had also some negative points. He said "among the negative aspects he said were, our disunity, internal strifes and clashes and direct contacts with Mr. Najib by some elements."

At the end "the resolutions of the meeting were read by Dr. Najibullah Lafraie, AIG Minister of Information.

"The resolution emphasised the continuation of Jehad until elemination of all signs of athieism and communism and establishment of an Islamic justice system.

"It opposed all outside plots and interferences and notes that the Afghan nation has the capability to decide for itself. Meetings and/or compromise with the puppet regime and establishment of so-called neutral "coalition" government are also rejected.

14 Kabul soldiers killed in Mujahideen operation

LONDON, Jan. 1: The Afghan Mujahideen on the eve of the 11th anniversary of Soviet aggression conducted guerilla operations in Parwan, Baghlan, Laghman, Samangan, Kunduz and Qandahar provinces.

The Agency Afghan Press sources quoting Engineer Gulbudin Hikmatyar said that the Mujahideen inflicted heavy losses to the Kabul regime forces. It was learnt that over one hundred Kabul troops were killed and injured during the operations on December 27 in Afghanistan.

In the meanwhile, the reports received from Kabul stated that the Mujahideen are engaged in contacting with the high ranking military officials of Najib administration. The report adds that the civilian population of Kabul is cooperating with the Mujahideen by giving them information about the movement of armoured units.

Another report said that the Mujahideen are holding their positions after breaking the first defence line, where they forced the Najib troops to vacate the security posts in the security line.

In the northern Afghan province of Juzjan bordering the Soviet Union, the Mujahideen led by commander Qazi Abdul Haye attacked the security posts near Shibbarghan, the provincial headquarter on December 26.

According to the reports, the Mujahideen captured 20 Kabul troops and seized three tanks, two machine guns and sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition. As many as 14 Kabul troops were reported to be killed and injured during the operation. The Mujahideen remained unhurt in the attack and moved back to their safe places.—AAP

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 02

India to sign trade pact with Afghanistan

KABUL (PPI) — India is to sign a broad-based trade agreement with Afghanistan.

Talking to newsmen at the airport the commerce minister, Subramanjum Swamy said the agreement would be reached during his stay in Afghanistan.

Swamy is currently on an official visit to Afghanistan, reports AIR.

He said there was much scope for increasing the trade between the two countries in traditional and non-traditional areas.

FRONTIER POST
JAN 02

Najib for Indo-Afghan co-operation to check Pak activities

F.P. Monitoring Report

The Kabul regime president, Dr. Najibullah, has said that both India and Afghanistan can co-operate with each other to check the activities of Pakistan inside the two countries, All India Radio reported.

Dr. Najib told the visiting Indian minister for trade, Dr. Sobhramanyam Swami, in Kabul that his country could not tolerate the activities of Pakistan.

Dr. Swami is currently on a three-day visit of Afghanistan and he held talks with Najib for an hour on Tuesday.

Swami left Kabul for New Delhi yesterday leaving his delegation behind in the Afghan capital for further talks. Before his departure Swami said India wanted to expand its trade ties with Afghanistan. He said bilateral trade between two countries via Iran would be increased.

FRONTIER POST JAN 02

Chief of Jama'at-i-Islami Qazi Hussain Ahmad with AIG president Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddadi at independence day reception of Sudan in Islamabad.—F.P. photo

Mujahids kill 23, capture 9 posts of Kabul troops

Mujahideen captured nine security posts of the Kabul regime in Logar and adjoining areas and killed 23 regime soldiers on December 31, reports Afghan News Agency.

Details say that mujahideen of Khyber Front under the command of Brigadier Jamshed launched a successful attack on the regime posts in Lutki Qila in Logar and captured two security posts. Three other posts were captured at the Ghani village while three at the Kuchi base. Another post fell to mujahideen at the Meero village near Abazak in Logar.

Mujahideen captured an ammunition dump, 23 Kalashnikovs and five wireless sets and killed 23 soldiers in these operations.

Meanwhile, Ustad Fateh Mohammad, in a wireless communication, disclosed that his mujahideen had continuously brought under fire the Bagram military air base, Gul Ghundi, and teachers training centre. On December 27 mujahideen killed 12 regime soldiers including an officer at Bagram airport. Four regime soldiers were killed at the Gul Ghundi. Besides heavy material loss was also inflicted to the regime forces. In spite of severe cold weather mujahideen have intensified their attacks on the regime forces mostly on the south-eastern and northern security ring of Kabul.

J.I. criticises ANP's Afghan policy

F.P. Report

Prof. Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, secretary-general of the Jamaat-i-Islami, NWFP, while commenting on the statement of ANP leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan criticised his attitude towards Jamaat and advised to review their attitude towards 11-year jihad in Afghanistan.

According to the press release issued on Tuesday, Professor Ibrahim said that ANP leader always harassesed the Pukhtoon nation of the supremacy of Soviet Union and supported USSR's intervention in Afghanistan. He said that he declared the war of independence in Kashmir as goondaism and always objected to the defence needs of Pakistan.

J.I. leader said that Awami National Party before the 1988 general elections promised end to load-shedding and supply of 100 units of electricity free of charges to the NWFP consumers but the people of NWFP were still waiting to see the fulfilment of their promises.

In another statement Professor also condemned the raise in arms licence fee and said that because of this raise respectable citizens of the country might no longer be able to carry arms for their self-protection.

He said that on the other hand the federal government proposed a death sentence for those who would carry arms without licence. He demanded of the government to immediately decrease the fee of arms licences.

In another press statement the J.I. spokesman demanded to register a case against chief minister of Sindh Jam Sadiq for his public acceptance of drinking alcohol. He said that he was liable to punishment under the state's prohibition laws.

FRONTIER POST JAN 03

260 Afghan DPs feared dead in blizzard

From Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR, Jan 1: The valley of Chitral has been cut off from the rest of the country by all land routes after heavy snowfall for over one week and reports indicate that a large number of people have either been stranded or killed on the way.

Worst hit is the area bordering Afghanistan, the route for Afghan refugees. The area has been covered by several feet of snow.

Some 260 Afghan refugees were feared killed when they lost their way owing to heavy snow storm and winds.

According to a report a caravan of about 300 Afghan refugees which left Chitral for Gaboor, were trapped in heavy snowfall. According to the report only 50 people of the said Caravan succeeded in coming back, injured and exhausted.

Seven among those who returned, were reported to have later died.

Bad weather has also affected PIA flights to and from Chitral during the last one month leaving many stranded.

DAWN JAN 0 2

2 Kabul jets violate Pak airspace

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR—Two jet planes of Kabul Air Force on Thursday intruded into Pakistan at 8.30 am and dropped four bombs on village Ghulam Khan, north Waziristan. There were no casualities but a number of houses were damaged.

NATION JAN 0 4

Kabul paving ground for Zahir's return

LONDON, Jan. 3 The Kabul administration has started a campaign on tribal basis to pave ground for possible return of the former King Zahir Shah.

The Agency Afghan Press sources learnt that on a directive issued by the Kabul administration, the governor Qandahar General Akram Mohammadzai held meetings with the Durrani and Mohammadzai tribal elders. It is notable that Zahir Shah is associated with all the tribal living in Qandahar. The Najib administration expects that Zahir Shah can be brought to Afghanistan via Qandahar by using the tribal links.

In the meanwhile, the news are circulating in Qandahar that Dr. Najib has expressed his willingness to quit power in favour of Zahir Shah and the present campaign in support of Zahir Shah is enough to confirm the news. It is also reported that the son-in-law of Zahir Shah, Sardar Wali has established contacts with Najib. It is on behalf of Sardar Wali that Dr. Najib was reassuring the Parcham office bearers that the return of Zahir Shah would be useful for them.

It is reported that the Soviets have selected Mazar Sharif as the last stronghold for Dr. Najib. However, Dr. Najib was also considering Zahir Shah, a combined choice of the United States and the Soviet Union as a protection for him.

It is however worth mentioning that a large number of people from Mohammadzai and Durrani tribes of Zahir Shah had joined Jehad and they could not be misguided by playing up the tribal prejudices.

The Mujahideen destroyed two security posts in Dasht-e-Baboos area in Logar province in the course of their campaign to push back the Kabul troops.

According to the reports, the Mujahideen led by commander Nazir Ahmed killed 14 troops in the fighting while five Mujahids were martyred. Heavy quantity of arms and ammunition was seized by the Mujahideen from the security posts.—AAP

PAKISTAN TIMES JAN 0 4

Pledge to give Afghan govt tough time

KARACHI, Jan 3: Haji Ali Jan, a representative of Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan in Karachi, has said coordination between Hizb-i-Islami and Jamiat-i-Islami Afghanistan will give tough time to Najib administration.

Speaking at a Press conference at Press Club here on Thursday he said both Superpowers are creating obstacles in the establishment of Islamic government.

He said in spite of supplying aid worth several million dollars every month the Russians have failed to improve Najib's position. "Now they have accepted the American plan to reinstate Zahir Shah," he added.—PPI

DAWN JAN 0 4

36 frozen to death in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 2: As many as 36 travellers of a bus bound for the Helmand province in Afghanistan were frozen to death in a harsh cold of winter, early this week, midia reported today.

The report said that a total of eight children were frozen to death recently in the Surkhab and Suranan tentage camps of the Afghan refugees in the Balochistan province of Pakistan.

MUSLIM JAN 0 3

Najib should unconditionally step down: Hekmatyar

The chief of Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan, Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar, has said that the current attacks of mujahideen has frustrated Najib, his lackeys and those parties which are afraid of mujahideen take over in Afghanistan, says a press release of Afghan News Agency issued in Peshawar on Thursday.

He said that the current convulsions of the Kabul administration on the diplomatic corps, the recent visits of Najib to Geneva, Ankara and Iran were aimed at averting mujahideen pressure on the regime. These were the current operations that brought down the two super powers close to an agreement for re-installing Zahir Shah in Afghanistan. In view of mujahideen's increasing pressure the mind of the Kabul ruler had been frustrated and he had time and again been claiming the establishment of contacts with the Hezb-i-Islami, he added.

Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar said that the mujahideen operations viz-a-viz the rumours of a possible military coup had worried all the anti-jihad elements and they had joined hands to conspire against the mujahideen. They were now trying to replace Najib with an interim government headed by the former Afghan monarch, Zahir Shah. This so-called impartial government would hold elections in Afghanistan in which Najib and his party would be allowed participation. "But I should make it clear to all such parties that no solution of the Afghan problem could be practicable if it is not supported by the mujahideen," he continued. He said that the joint message of Najib and Zahir Shah was an ample proof of the fact that only mujahideen could play a vital role and only that solution of the problem would bring peace which was supported by the mujahideen.

He recollected the assertions of Zahir Shah that if Hezb-i-Islami accepted Zahir Shah for the interim period he would accede to all the demands of the party, further pledging that neither he himself nor a member of his family would take part in the future government.

Hekmatyar went on to say that his reply to the message was that Najibullah should surrender unconditionally and avail the offer of general amnesty, the only option open for him and that mujahideen would never give any other privilege to Najib least of Shariah decree against him. He insisted that Najib should hand over power to such an interim government the members of which had neither shared power during the communist rule since 1978 or the rule of Zahir Shah and it fully occupied the Afghan mujahideen.

The HIA amir said that Najib was responsible for the killing of 1.5 million Afghans, jihad against him was still continuing and Najib had been clinging to the chair, therefore, no question of negotiations with Najib arose. He alleged that Najib through his continuous offers for negotiations wanted to deceive those army officers who had become tired of the prolonged war against their nation and thus averting the internal as well as external pressure on his regime.

Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar said that before launching the current attacks against Kabul he sent a message to Najib through a diplomat at the United Nations, asking him to surrender before the mujahideen. Najib was told that mujahideen did not want to shower bombs on the Afghan capital once more and if he (Najib) too did not like to witness another military uprising and dropping of destructive bombs on Kabul he should quit power and surrender before mujahideen, he added. He further said that no power on earth could guarantee his rule in Afghanistan. "Mujahideen were determined to do away with his despicable regime but in that eventuality the responsibility would rest on Najib's shoulders and mujahideen's treatment with him would be very bad in case Najib showed reluctance in surrendering before mujahideen."

Hekmatyar added that the reply of Najib to his latest message was negative, therefore, he started the current operations against him which would be continued untill the final victory. He said that now when a cohesive and organised attack against Kabul regime had been launched it would be continued till the fall of Najib and therefore, "no question of talks or otherwise arises with Najib".

Hekmatyar further said that before the withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan Najib was very fearful of mujahideen and established contacts with Hezb-i-Islami to safeguard his life. Such attempts were made by Najib through the governments of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Libya and the PLO chief Yasser Arafat. But every time our answer was that mujahideen could only talk with him the mode of Najib's unconditional surrender and re-assuring him the offer of general amnesty if he was prepared for bowing down before the mujahideen.

Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar proclaimed that two things were beyond probability i.e. forming coalition government with Najib and agreement with the return of Zahir Shah. He said that so long Hezb-i-Islami was concerned it would continue jihad against the despicable regime and would neither allow Najib to prolong his rule any more nor accept Zahir Shah even for a single day. He concluded that the best course for Najib was that he should bow down before mujahideen unconditionally.

FRONTIER POST JAN 04

FRONTIER POST JAN 04

Not a single Afghan refugees employee sacked: N.A. told

ISLAMABAD (APP) — Minister in charge for states and Frontier regions Sardar Yaqub Khan Nasar informed the National Assembly on Thursday morning that not a single employee of the Afghan refugees organisation had so far been retrenched. He was replying to a question put by Fazal Kundi, during the question hour.

He, however, conceded that there was a retrenchment programme but no notice had so far been issued to any employee for termination of his service. He said due to steep decline in the availability of donations for the relief assistance programme of Afghan refugees and the consequent Decline in the relief activities a proposal for effecting about 30 per cent (2,141 employees) reduction in the staff of the Afghan refugees organisation (ARO), was under consideration.

Although, he said, the services of employees of ARO were purely temporary, and could be terminated at any time, yet keeping in view the genuine difficulties, the ministry of states and Frontier regions had made proposals to the concerned authorities in federal and provincial government to create pools of the surplus employees of the ARO for absorption in other government departments.

Minister in charge for establishment division Syed Fakhar Imam said in reply to a question by Aftab Shaban Mirani that a total of 170 persons were recruited by the caretaker federal government excluding Federal Public Service Commission appointees in grade 16 and above on ad hoc basis. He said persons recruited in BPS-1 to 15 in establishment division was 15 only while information about other departments was being collected.

To a question by Shaikh Rashid Ahmed, the minister for labour, manpower and overseas Pakistanis Mohammad Ijaz-ul-Haq stated that remittances received from emigrants during the last five years were over 10,725 million dollars. He said many incentives had been given in order to induce higher remittances. These inducements, he said, include special facilities for industrial investment and specific benefits under certain saving schemes.

Minister for railways Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani said that the Pakistan Railways had sustained a loss of Rs. 2756.327 million in the year 1988-89 and Rs. 2163.012 million during the year 1989-90. He said railways was a profit-earning organisation up to 1972-73 whereafter, it incurred losses.

The main factors causing financial burden on the railways he said had been devaluation of Pak currency in 1972-73, leading to increased debt servicing liabilities, introduction of national scales of pay in 1972-73 and 1974-75, abnormal increase in oil prices and other imported components, revised scale of pay in 1977-78, delinking of Pakistani rupee from U.S. dollar in 1982 increasing the cost of imported store, revision of pay scales in 1984-85, indexation of pay, and pension liberalisation during 1985-86, and awarding of new scales of pay during 1987-88. All these measures substantially increased the financial burden for the railways, he said.

In all, 8315 persons were recruited in railways during the period from 1.12.1988 to 6.8.1990, he said.

Province-wise breakup is given below:

Punjab (2773), NWFP (443), Sindh (4842), Balochistan (226), Azad Kashmir (22) and FATA (nine).

Minister in charge for establishment division, Syed Fakhar Imam gave details of the government servants in grade 17 and above who were still serving on extension. He said there were nine in grade 21, eight in grade 20, three in grade 19, 12 in grade 18 and only two in grade 17. He was replying to a question by Sheikh Rashid Ahmed.

On a short notice question by Naveed Qamar, the minister for law and parliamentary affairs Syed Fakhar Imam said that overall, there was no curtailment of government advertisement during the months of September, October and November last year. To a supplementary question, he stated that the government advertisements given to the daily *Musawat* amounted to Rs. 2,99,900 in the month of July, Rs. 1,15,500 for the month of August and Rs. 11,500 for September 1990.

MUSLIM JAN 04

Muslims urged to sink differences

Kuwait, Kashmir, Afghanistan Ummah's main problems: PM

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 3: Emphasising the need for unity among the Muslim Ummah, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif Thursday urged Muslim leaders to sink their differences and make concerted and determined efforts to counter the designs of hostile forces.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the tripartite Foreign Ministers' conference of Pakistan, Turkey and Iran at the Foreign Office here.

Highlighting the major problems currently being faced by the Ummah, the Prime Minister said these included Kashmir, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

The Prime Minister made a specific reference to the need for solving the Kashmir issue according to the United Nations resolutions and Simla Agreement.

He also expressed deep concern over the wave of anti-Muslim riots in India by extremist organisations.

He told the gathering from the three countries that they were bound together by imperishable bonds of Islam, history and culture. The affinity and affection among the brotherly peoples and the cooperation amongst them through governments transcended limitations of national boundaries and personalities.

He said no greater proof of their brotherly ties could be offered than the friendly and hospitable treatment given to more than 35000 Pakistanis who travelled overland through Turkey and Iran on their way to Pakistan from Iraq and occupied Kuwait. "Let me take this opportunity to express once again Pakistan's gratitude and appreciation for this brotherly gesture", he said.

The desire of the respective governments and peoples to strengthen their relations in the economic sphere, he said, had led to the establishment of the RCD in the sixties, which was revived in 1985 as the Economic Cooperation Organisation. We are delighted that the ECO is being reinvigorated and steps are underway to intensify and broaden the existing fraternal cooperation and

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AFGHANISTAN

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